

Professors Discussed Diversity at Faculty Meeting Wednesday

By Meghan Nelson
STAFF REPORTER

Faculty members unanimously passed two motions at Wednesday's faculty meeting: one establishing academic guidelines for prolonged emergencies on campus and the second scheduling the September student holiday on the same day as the fall career fair.

Later, a team of faculty working within the Initiative on Faculty Race and Diversity presented recommendations for increasing and sustaining the levels of minority faculty members at MIT. They are expected to produce a full report by mid-December.

The faculty voted swiftly to approve the emergency procedures and guidelines under which the Institute will operate during times of "significant disruption." Such events are defined in the new amendment as including "natural disaster, civil unrest, or pandemic illness," which causes "substantial absenteeism among students or instructors," and "prevents academic work from progressing."

The Institute has shut down three times in its history — due to an influenza pandemic in 1918, student strikes in 1970, and a blizzard in 1978 — but before Wednesday, no formal emergency academic procedures had ever existed.

Now, if the faculty chair declares a significant disruption, that chair will have the power to change the school calendar, class registration, assignments, exams, grades, or any other academic systems, depending on the "uniqueness of any emergency situation."

The procedures also established an alternate grading scale that may be used during a significant disruption, which includes a specific transcript mark for incomplete work that may be replaced by a final mark if work for the course is completed by a specified date.

If alternate grades are implemented, they will not factor into a

student's GPA and instead will be listed on the transcript with an explanation of the disruption.

Recruiting Minority Faculty

Professor of Chemical Engineering Paula T. Hammond '84 presented the findings of the Initiative on Faculty Race and Diversity, created in 2007 to study how race affects the way faculty experience MIT.

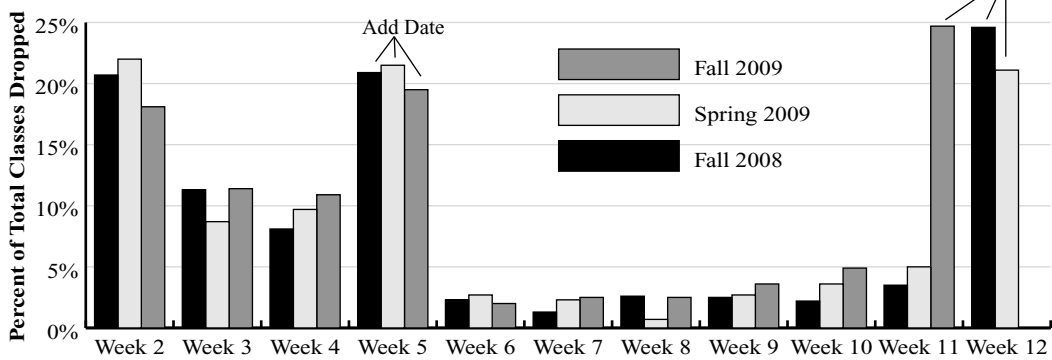
Through demographic analysis, surveys, and interviews, the team examined how race affected the lives of faculty members. After identifying key problems in the way MIT handles diversity, they developed recommendations for implementation.

In terms of recruiting, they found that 36 percent of MIT underrepresented minority (URM) faculty have MIT degrees, and 60 percent of MIT URM faculty were drawn from other positions at MIT, Stanford, and Harvard. "We are not gaining from certain pools of talent," said Hammond, saying that to increase diversity MIT must expand where it searches for potential faculty.

To increase retention of URM faculty members, the group's report will suggest that MIT assign mentors to act as both advisors to and advo-

Faculty Meeting, Page 14

Classes Dropped Over the Term, by Week



SOURCE: RI ROMANO, REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

This term, drop date occurred during week 11 of the term, while in the previous two terms, drop date happened during week 12. Students drop the most classes during the week of drop date, closely followed by the first week of term and the fifth week, around the time when many first midterms take place.

More H1N1 Clinics Expected to Occur as More Vaccines Arrive

By Ana Lyons
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT Medical vaccinated nearly 1,050 students against the H1N1 flu-virus last Tuesday as part of a quickly arranged clinic.

Medical will hold an appointment-only clinic for an additional 200 students between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24 in E23.

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in receiving this vaccine must be under age 24 and may arrange appointments by calling 617-253-4865.

Another 100 to 150 students were vaccinated on November 11 when a Medical clinic was opened up to all students under 24, due to low turnout from the original target group of children under 17. Extra vaccines that went unused would have expired after 24 hours.

Between the three clinics, MIT will have vaccinated about 1,350 students, or over ten percent of its combined 10,000-member student body.

Medical anticipates supplying more vaccines to students, staff, and MIT community members in future clinics as more of the vaccine becomes available. More information on Tuesday's clinic can be found on Medical's website.

Medical Fights H1N1 with More Clinics

The recent clinics on campus were part of federally-funded and state-implemented efforts to help limit the ongoing spread of H1N1, which infected roughly 22 million Americans, based on data collected

by the Center for Disease Control between April and October 17, 2009.

Medical has documented over 480 cases of "influenza like illnesses" over the past ten weeks, although Associate Medical Director of MIT Medical David V. Diamond notes that not all of these cases are H1N1 and that not all H1N1 cases are reported.

Although Medical hopes to eventually make the vaccine available for free to the whole MIT community, Diamond said that the main problem with increasing outreach is that the vaccine is "slow in coming."

Regarding next Tuesday's clinic, Diamond said "we likely will not have enough vaccine next week for all who may be interested."

It is likely, however, that another clinic will be offered after Thanksgiving, Diamond said. "Depending on additional vaccine deliveries, we will designate eligibility and logistics for the clinic."

H1N1 Clinics, Page 14

Regents Raise Tuition In Calif. by 32 Percent

By Tamar Lewin
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERKELEY, CALIF.

As the University of California struggles to absorb its sharpest drop in state financing since the Great Depression, every professor, administrator and clerical worker has been put on furlough amounting to an average pay cut of 8 percent.

In chemistry laboratories that have produced Nobel Prize-winning research, wastebaskets are stuffed to the brim on the new reduced cleaning schedule. Many students are frozen out of required classes as course sections are trimmed.

And on Thursday, to top it all off, the Board of Regents voted to increase undergraduate fees — the equivalent of tuition — by 32 percent next fall, to more than \$10,000. The university will cost about three times

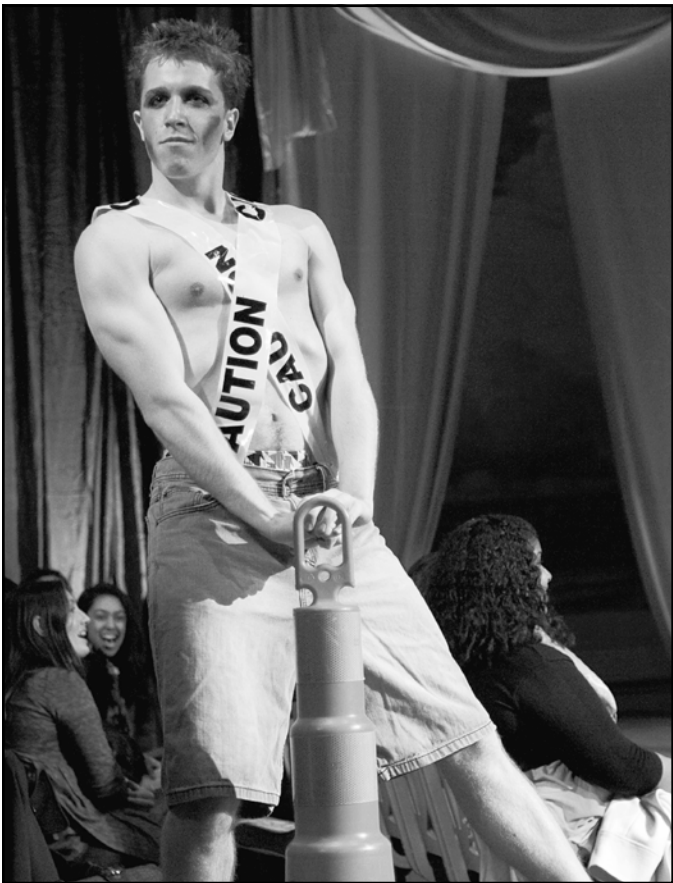
as much as it did a decade ago, and what was once an educational bargain will be one of the nation's higher-priced public universities.

Among students and faculty alike, there is a pervasive sense that the increases and the deep budget cuts are pushing the university into decline.

The budget cuts in California, topping \$30 billion over the last two years, have touched all aspects of state government, including health care, welfare, corrections and recreation. They have led to a retrenchment in state services not seen in modern times, and for many institutions, including the state university system, have created a watershed moment.

The state's higher education bud-

California, Page 14



FENG WU—THE TECH

Steven P. Bartel '10 poses with a traffic cone as part of the MIT couture runway show during Kappa Alpha Theta's KATwalk on November 11. KATwalk is a benefit fashion show featuring boutiques around the Boston area. Proceeds of the event go to KAT's national philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates, dedicated to helping abused and neglected children. Check out more photos of the event on page 13.

In Short

¶ **The MIT Post Office will remain open**, the U.S. Postal Service announced on Wednesday. The office had spent months under review for possible closure.

¶ **Sick of squeezing through** the construction zone on the Infinite? Relief will come soon, as the project is on schedule to finish in December.

¶ **Registration for Mystery Hunt** is now open. The registration deadline for teams requesting classroom space is December 16. Register online at <http://web.mit.edu/puzzle/www/mailto.html>

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



Comics

Page 10



Medeski, Martin & Wood at the House of Blues

Page 9

OPINION

The Tech's editorial on the Division of Student Life under Colombo

Page 4

Capitalism and Democracy

Page 5

World & Nation 2
Opinion..... 4
Arts..... 6
Comics / Fun Pages..... 10
Sports..... 16

WORLD & NATION

‘Twilight’ Time: Girls Just Wanna Swoon Over Vampires

By Tom Keyser

THE ALBANY TIMES UNION

ALBANY, N.Y.

Emily Keller, a Watervliet, N.Y., high school senior, has read the four “Twilight” books 28 times.

Olivia Jaquith, a Niskayuna, N.Y., ninth-grader, flew with her mom across country last year to attend the “Twilight” premiere and has since watched the film about 50 times.

Pamela Townsend, a senior, is joining other “Twilight” fanatics to see the first showing of the second movie in the series, “The Twilight Saga: New Moon.”

The film started at 12:01 a.m. Friday in this region of upstate New York. One multiplex is showing it on 12 screens.

Welcome to the “Twilight” phenomenon — and not, presumably, for the first time. As Liz Gialanella, a school psychologist, says, “You’d have to be on another planet not to know about ‘Twilight.’”

It’s a four-book series by Stephenie Meyer being made into a four-movie series about a girl who falls in love with a vampire while being courted by a werewolf. Young, beautiful actors portray the characters — the vampires and werewolves are particularly gorgeous — and the hype is intense. “Twilight” merchandise is everywhere, and teenage girls, especially, swoon over it all.

Oprah Winfrey Plans to Leave ABC Show in Cable Gamble

By Brian Stelter and Bill Carter

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oprah Winfrey is giving network television one of her trademark aha moments.

Winfrey, the billionaire queen of daytime television, is planning to announce Friday that she will step down from her daily pulpit, “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” in two years in order to concentrate on the forthcoming cable channel that will bear her name.

“The sun will set on the Oprah show as its 25th season draws to a close on Sept. 9, 2011,” Tim Bennett, the president of Winfrey’s production company, Harpo, said in a letter to her 214 local TV stations Thursday evening. She will appear on her cable channel, called OWN: the Oprah Winfrey Network, in some form. But “The Oprah Winfrey Show” will no longer be.

The list of repercussions of her decision is long. For CBS, owner of the syndication rights to her show, it means the loss of its signature program and millions of dollars every year in revenue. For ABC, where her show was largely shown, it means the loss of daytime’s most popular show, a generator of a massive audience leading into its evening news programs.

European Union Names Two to Positions as Leaders

By Stephen Castle and Steven Erlanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS

Leaders of the 27 countries of the European Union on Thursday night chose Herman Van Rompuy, the Belgian prime minister, as the European Union’s first president, and Catherine Ashton of Britain, currently the EU trade commissioner, as its high representative for foreign policy. The vote was unanimous.

Both officials are highly respected but little known outside their own countries. After the European Union’s eight-year battle to rewrite its internal rules and to pass the Lisbon Treaty that created these two new jobs, the choice of such low-profile figures seemed to highlight Europe’s problems instead of its readiness to take a more united and forceful place in world affairs.

Guidelines Push Back Age For Cervical Cancer Tests

By Denise Grady

THE NEW YORK TIMES

New guidelines for cervical cancer screening say women should delay their first Pap test until age 21, and be screened less often than recommended in the past.

The advice, from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is meant to decrease unnecessary testing and potentially harmful treatment, particularly in teenagers and young women. The group’s previous guidelines had recommended yearly testing for young women, starting within three years of their first sexual intercourse, but no later than age 21.

Arriving on the heels of hotly disputed guidelines calling for less use of mammography, the new recommendations might seem like part of a larger plan to slash cancer screening for women. But the timing was coincidental, said Dr. Cheryl B. Iglesia, the chairwoman of a panel in the obstetricians’ group that developed the Pap smear guidelines. The group updates its advice regularly based on new medical information, and Iglesia said the latest recommendations had been in the works for several years, “long

before the Obama health plan came into existence.”

She called the timing crazy, uncanny and “an unfortunate perfect storm,” adding, “There’s no political agenda with regard to these recommendations.”

Iglesia said the argument for changing Pap screening was more compelling than that for cutting back on mammography — which the obstetricians’ group has — opposed — because there is more potential for harm from the overuse of Pap tests.

The reason is that young women are especially prone to develop abnormalities in the cervix that appear to be precancerous, but that will go away if left alone. But when Pap tests find the growths, doctors often remove them, with procedures that can injure the cervix and lead to problems later when a woman becomes pregnant, including premature birth and an increased risk of needing a Caesarean.

Still, the new recommendations for Pap tests are likely to feed a political debate in Washington over health care overhaul proposals. The mammogram advice led some Republicans to predict that such recommendations would lead to rationing.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who is a physician, said in an interview that he would continue to offer Pap smears to sexually active young women. Democratic proposals to involve the government more deeply in the nation’s health care system, he said, would lead the new mammography, Pap smear and other guidelines to be adopted without regard to patient differences, hurting many people. “These are going to be set in stone,” Coburn said.

Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., a longtime advocate for cancer screening, said in an interview: “And this Pap smear guideline is yet another cut back in screening? That is curious.” He said Congress was committed to increasing cancer screenings, not limiting them.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said the new guidelines would have no effect on federal policy and that “Republicans are using these new recommendations as a distraction.”

“Making such arguments, especially at this critical point in the debate, merely clouds the very simple issue that our health reform bill would increase access to care for millions of women across the country,” she said.

A Medical Culture Clash of Science and Practice

By Kevin Sack

THE NEW YORK TIMES

This week, the science of medicine bumped up against the foundations of American medical consumerism: that more is better, that saving a life is worth any sacrifice, that health care is a birthright.

Two new recommendations, calling for delaying the start and reducing the frequency of screening for breast and cervical cancer, have been met with anger and confusion from some corners, not to mention a measure of political posturing.

The backers of science-driven medicine, with its dual focus on risks and benefits, have cheered the elevation of data in the setting of standards. But many patients — and organizations of doctors and disease specialists — find themselves uneasy to accept the counterintuitive notion that more testing can be bad for your health.

“People are being asked to think differently about risk,” said Sheila M. Rothman, a professor of public health at Columbia University. “The public state of mind right now is that they’re frightened that evidence-based medicine is going to be equated with rationing. They don’t see it in a scientific perspective.”

For decades, the medical establishment, the government and the news media have preached the mantra of early detection, spending untold millions of dollars to spread the word. Now, the hypothesis that screening is vital to health and longevity is being turned on its head, with researchers asserting that mammograms and Pap smears can cause more harm than good for women of certain ages.

On Monday, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, a federally appointed advisory panel, recom-

mended that most women delay the start of routine mammograms until they are 50, rather than 40, as the group suggested in 2002. It also recommended that women receive the test every two years rather than annually, and that physicians not train women to perform breast self-examination.

The task force, whose recommendations are not binding on insurers or physicians, concluded after surveying the latest research that the risks caused by over-diagnosis, anxiety, false-positive test results and excess biopsies outweighed the benefits of screening for women in their 40s. It found that one cancer death is prevented for every 1,904 women ages 40 to 49 who are screened for 10 years, compared with one death for every 1,339 women from 50 to 74, and one death for every 377 women from 60 to 69.

WEATHER

Rise to the Occlusion

By Vince Agard

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Today’s weather will be influenced by the passage of an occluded front, as the center of a low pressure system passes to our north. An occluded front is formed in a mature cyclone (low pressure system) when the cold front associated with the system overtakes the warm front, causing the two fronts to merge. Unlike a cold or warm front, an occluded front usually does not result in a large temperature difference at the surface upon its passage, since there is relatively cold air on either side of it. However, there is often a pocket of warm air pushed aloft in association with the occluded front, which can lead to precipitation along the frontal boundary.

We will see this precipitation move through our area today, as rain showers take place ahead of the passing occluded front. After the front has passed, however, the skies will clear just in time for a pleasant weekend. Expect highs in the 50s°F, with lows in the low 40s°F through Sunday. A chance of rain will present itself once again on Monday, as a coastal storm is expected to approach New England.

Extended Forecast

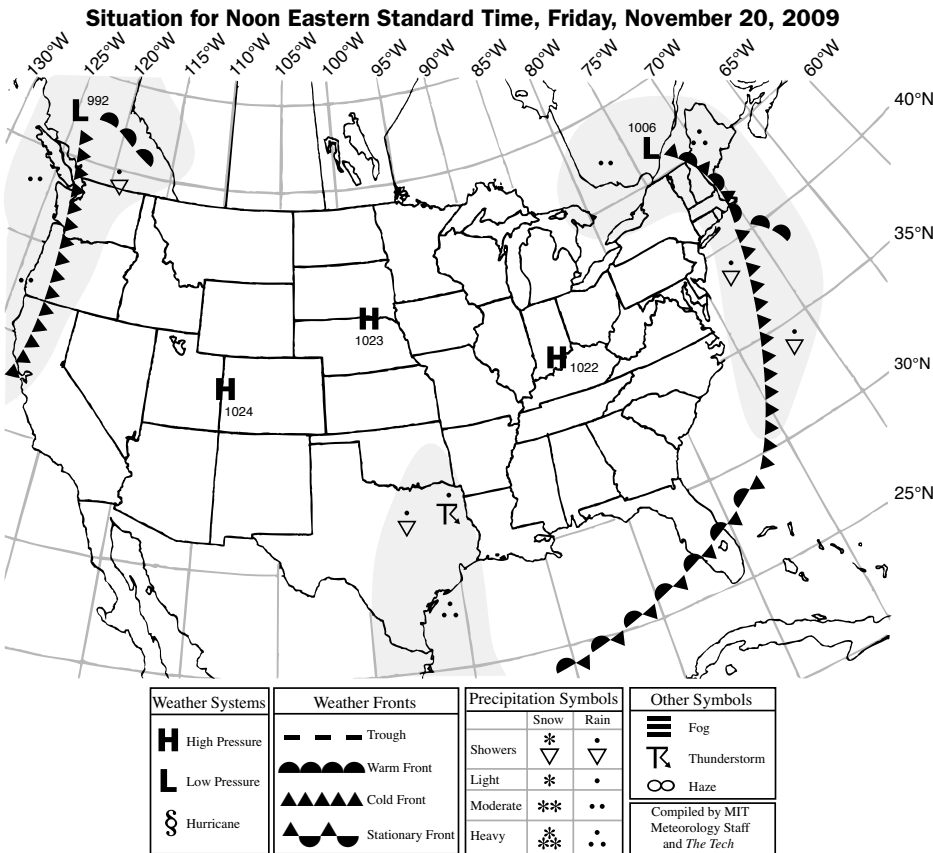
Today: Cloudy with rain showers. High 59°F (15°C). Winds south at 13–18 mph.

Tonight: Breezy and clearing early. Low 44°F (7°C). Winds west at 12–15 mph.

Tomorrow: A few clouds early. High 57°F (14°C). Winds west-northwest at 10–12 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Highs near 50°F (10°C).

Monday: Cloudy with a chance of rain. Highs near 50°F (10°C).



Senate Bill Covers Fewer Than House Version, Costs Less

By Robert Pear
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate version of health reform legislation would cover 5 million fewer people than a companion bill passed by the House, but it would cost less, in part because Senate Democratic leaders said they believed they had to win support from fiscally conservative members of their party.

The Senate is expected to vote Saturday on whether to take up the legislation. The majority leader, Harry Reid, D-Nev., refused to say Thursday whether he had the 60 votes needed to clear that procedural hurdle.

While the guts of the Senate and House bills are similar, Reid devised a new method of financing coverage, not found in any other major health bill. His proposal would significantly increase the Medicare payroll tax for high-income people.

The Senate and House bills would provide coverage to millions of the uninsured by expanding Medicaid and subsidizing private insurance for people with moderate incomes.

The Senate bill would spend \$821 billion over 10 years on Medicaid and subsidies. The House bill would spend 25 percent more: \$1.03 trillion over 10 years.

A gulf separates the House and the Senate on the emotional issue of abortion.

Over the objection of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the House adopted much stricter limits. Under the House bill, federal money could not be used “to pay for any abortion or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion,” except in case of rape or incest or if the life of a pregnant woman was in danger. Thus, a plan that received federal subsidies for low- and moderate-income people could not offer abortion coverage.

Under the Senate bill, insurers would not be required or forbidden to cover abortion. But, the measure says, in every part of the country, the government would have to ensure that there is at least one plan that covers abortion and at least one that does not.

The secretary of health and human services would decide whether

a proposed new government insurance plan would cover abortion. If an insurer covers abortion, it could not use federal money to pay for the procedure. It could use only premiums paid by subscribers and would have to keep the money separate from subsidies received from the federal government.

Opponents of abortion describe this bookkeeping arrangement as a sham.

“It’s a shell game,” said Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb.

But Johanns said he doubted that the Senate would accept the stringent restriction adopted by the House.

“I don’t see it in the final bill,” Johanns said. “I don’t believe there are enough pro-life senators to break a filibuster to make this a part of the final bill.”

Supporters of abortion rights were pleased with the treatment of abortion in Reid’s bill. “It maintains the decades-long compromise of no federal funds for abortion, while allowing a woman to use her own private funds for her reproductive health care,” said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.

U.S. Takes A New Look At Terrorism Air Defenses

By Thom Shanker and Eric Schmitt
THE NEW YORK TIMES

COLORADO SPRINGS

The commander of military forces protecting North America has ordered a review of the costly air defenses intended to prevent another Sept. 11-style terrorism attack, an assessment aimed at determining whether the commitment of jet fighters, other aircraft and crews remains justified.

Senior officers involved in the effort say the assessment is to gauge the likelihood that terrorists may succeed in hijacking an airliner or flying their own smaller craft into the United States or Canada. The study is focused on circumstances in which the attack would be aimed not at a public building or landmark but instead at a power plant or a critical link in the nation’s financial network, like a major electrical grid or a computer network hub.

The review, to be completed next spring, is expected to be the military’s most thorough reassessment of the threat of a terrorism attack by air since al-Qaida’s strikes on Sept. 11, 2001, transformed a Defense Department

focused on fighting other militaries and led to the Bush administration’s “global war on terror.”

The assessment is partly a reflection of how a military straining to fight two wars is questioning whether it makes sense to keep in place the costly system of protections established after those attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Though combat patrols above American cities were discontinued in 2007, the military keeps dozens of warplanes and hundreds of air crew members on alert to respond to potential threats.

“The fighter force is extremely expensive, so you always have to ask yourself the question ‘How much is enough?’” said Maj. Gen. Pierre J. Forgues of Canada, director of operations for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, which carries out the air defense mission within the United States military’s Northern Command.

Northern Command, based here in Colorado Springs, will try to determine in its review whether the United States is safer today. Military strategists and operations officers

have been asked to address whether the security measures put in place since 2001 have diminished the threat of terrorist attack by aircraft to such an extent that a smaller commitment of combat jets and personnel is now warranted.

Officers conducting the review said that a number of security steps adopted in the last eight years should be factored into whether to sustain the air defense mission at current levels.

Among those steps are screening measures at airports; the addition of armored, locked cockpit doors on commercial planes; much tighter restrictions on airspace around Washington; and a host of law enforcement and intelligence operations to identify and track potential terrorists and prevent them from boarding airliners.

“The ability of terrorists to do what they did on 9/11 has been greatly curtailed,” Forgues said in an interview at his headquarters here. “But, as has been said, we would be concerned by the lack of imagination. And so we do not want to view the defense posture strictly in terms of threat. We want to view the defense posture in terms of vulnerability as well.”

Air Traffic System Fails, Causing Delays in Flight in Eastern U.S.

By Matthew L. Wald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Flights over much of the eastern United States were delayed Thursday by a predawn failure in a fairly new communications system, which led to the shutdown of a computer that accepts flight plans from the airlines and feeds them to air traffic controllers.

It was the fourth major disruption attributed to the communications system, which the Federal Aviation Administration began putting into service earlier in this decade as a way to cut costs and assure reliability. But the FAA said late Thursday that it had not yet determined the cause of the failure, that the failure might not be related to the relative newness of the system, and that it did not see a pattern.

But when it failed, at about 5 a.m. Eastern time, the airlines had to send flight plans — which describe a plane’s route, including intermediate points and altitudes — by fax, and the controllers typed them into their computers, not quite hunt-and-peck but cumbersome enough that many planes were

delayed for over an hour.

But there was no risk to planes in flight, the FAA said.

By midmorning the system was working again, but the backlog caused many flights to be held on the ground at airports around the country.

The West was mostly spared, though, because the problem was fixed before much of the flight day there got started there.

The crucial computer that was knocked out, the National Airspace Data Interchange Network, situated in Atlanta and with a backup in Salt Lake City, also failed in August 2008, with a similar result, but for a different reason.

Flight plans typically consist of hundreds of alpha-numeric characters giving the flight number, type of equipment, takeoff location and various intermediate points, with altitudes.

When the first failure happened — of a router, the FAA said — it knocked out not only the computer that handles flight plans, but one that sorts through “notices to airmen,” or FAA alerts about short-lived prob-

lems like runway closings, and delivers them to pilots.

By early afternoon, the FAA’s online status board was showing the problem limited to the Northeast.

The computer that handles the flight plans was repaired by around 9 a.m., but by then a huge backlog had developed.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the controllers’ union, said in a statement that “airport efficiency is being cut by at least half in places like New York-JFK.”

Airlines reported problems in other areas as well. Around the country, planeloads of passengers heard pilots blame the air traffic system as they sat on the tarmac. AirTran Airways, based in Orlando, Fla., quickly announced that passengers with tickets for Thursday could rebook without charge, as is commonly done in storms.

The aviation agency’s data processing system has a variety of problems. While it was hailed as a marvel when it was introduced decades ago, much of it is written in obsolete computer language and the agency has been slow to provide updates.

Food Fight: A New York Joint On Boston Common?

By Abby Goodnough
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

First the reviled Yankees won the World Series; now Shake Shack, the New York burger joint, might stake a claim in one of Boston’s most sacred spaces.

Danny Meyer, the restaurant operator who owns Shake Shack and other Manhattan hotspots, wants to open a branch on Boston Common, a bold foray into a city that famously loathes New York and its icons. But Meyer will be bidding against at least one other proposal, for a New England-style seafood stand called The Common House.

“I love Shake Shack,” said Jeffrey Mills, a Boston College graduate who is pitching the seafood restaurant. “I was in New York last weekend and went there. But the Common needs something that markets Boston and Boston cuisine.”

Mills, who co-owned the now-closed Biltmore Room restaurant in New York, said he also planned to sell a Common House line of products named for Boston landmarks — “Freedom Trail ketchup, something like that” — in grocery stores.

Meyer was not available for comment, but David Swinghamer, president of the growth division at his Union Square Hospitality Group, confirmed his interest in opening a Shake Shack here. The Common is one of the nation’s “most beautiful” parks, he said in a statement.

Afghan President Tries to Placate Critics as He Begins New Term

By Alissa J. Rubin and Mark Landler
THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Tainted by a flawed election and allegations of festering corruption in his government, President Hamid Karzai was inaugurated Thursday for a second term, promising to remedy the country’s problems and to have the Afghan army assume full control of security within five years.

Speaking in Dari and Pashto, Karzai reached out to the country’s two largest ethnic groups as well as to his defeated political rivals in a speech at a midday ceremony at the presidential palace.

Above all, his address seemed aimed at the United States and other Western allies, whose representatives, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, were among an audience of about 800 that also included government officials, military officers and tribal leaders.

Seeking to placate his international backers, Karzai touched on almost every major point that the Americans and other Western countries have pressed him to address in recent months.

He received applause three times: when he pledged to create a transparent and accountable government; when he promised to fight corruption; and when he thanked the United States and other allies for their help.

But those who heard the speech said it was hard to tell if he was truly comfortable with the many promises he made.

“The role of the international troops will be gradually reduced,” Karzai said. “We are determined that in the next five years, the Afghan forces are capable of taking the lead in ensuring security and stability across the country.”

U. of Nebraska Weighs Tighter Limits On Embryonic Stem Cell Research

By Monica Davey
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LINCOLN, NEB.

In an unusual pushback against President Barack Obama’s expansion of federal financing of human embryonic stem cell research, the University of Nebraska is considering restricting its stem cell experiments to cell lines approved by President George W. Bush.

The university’s board of regents is scheduled to take up the matter on Friday, and if it approves the restrictions — some opponents of the research say they have the votes, though others remain doubtful — the University of Nebraska would become the first such state institution in the country to impose limits on stem cell research that go beyond what state and federal laws allow, university officials say.

For weeks, the Nebraska board of regents has been the focus of a fierce campaign by opponents of embryonic stem cell research, most recently by a flood of e-mail and telephone calls, a petition drive and radio advertisements.

The effort, which is being met with an equally heated push by supporters, is a new front in the battle over the politically contentious research: It is being fought before a public university’s governing board, not a state legislature or on a ballot measure.

“This could be another possible tool,” said David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council.

Panel Sees No Need to Upgrade Aging U.S. A-Bombs

By William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a new report, a secretive federal panel has concluded that programs to extend the life of the nation’s aging nuclear arms are sufficient to guarantee their destructiveness for decades to come, obviating a need for a costly new generation of more reliable warheads.

The finding, by the Jason panel, an independent group of scientists that advises the federal government on issues of science and technology, bears on the growing debate over whether the United States should ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty or, instead, prepare for the design of new nuclear arms.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona and other Republicans have argued that concerns are growing over the reliability of the United States’ aging nuclear stockpile and that the possible need for new designs means that the nation should retain the right to conduct underground tests of new nuclear weapons.

The testing issue is expected to flare in the months ahead when the Obama administration submits the test ban treaty for ratification by the Senate, where it faces a tough fight.

OPINION



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Are You There Chris? It's Us, Students.

In August 2008 the newly-appointed Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo told *The Tech* that “there is a process where the conversation goes both ways” in regards to student life policy.

Editorial

However, this vital communication pipeline has been ineffectual or broken down in a number of areas since Dean Colombo took office last year.

The Division of Student Life’s job is made especially difficult given the Institute’s budget crunch. But there are ways Dean Colombo can ensure that students remain an active part of policymaking. Reports from Institute committees, visiting Corporation committees and task forces, such as the Student Support Services task force and the Division of Student Life Visiting Committee, should be made publicly available. MIT students are a fantastic source of ideas and it pays off to give them the data they need to contribute to a meaningful discussion on policy. We have proven this — the budget task force solicited student input and incorporated that input into their report. And especially when student life decisions hang in the balance, an administrator’s interpretation of report or

survey is not always correct.

In this spirit, *The Tech* calls on Dean Colombo to engage in active discussion regarding current DSL activity. Why have the deliberations on dining reforms stalled? Two committees, one tasked by the administration and the other by the Undergraduate Association, have submitted dining recommendations to Dean Colombo. And why have we seen a number of controversial changes within Student Support Services, including the dismissal of women’s advocate Lynn Roberson and S^3 Co-Director Jacqueline Simonis? S^3 is a “first line of defense” for students who are struggling or ill, and significant changes to its structure warrant public explanation. *The Tech* would like to know why the DSL has shown a lack of initiative in some key areas and publicly unjustified reforms in others.

By making data collected by Institute Committees and Task Forces open to the public, soliciting input from students and outlining a clear direction for the Division of Student Life, Dean Colombo can make more informed and effective policy. Active student engagement is a crucial part of two-way communication and should be a core characteristic of Dean Colombo’s administration.

Letters To The Editor

Empty Plinths Make MIT Distinctive

Lobby 7 is already a beautiful architectural space, to which the apparently empty plinths (waiting for the viewer’s imagination, or the viewer’s person, to fill them in) contribute greatly. Putting in statues, even classical ones in keeping with the Roman feeling of the lobby, would detract from the effect; worse yet would be inserting artwork so trendily contemporary as to turn one of the main entrances to the Institute into a permanent display of one

decade’s taste.

I admit that MIT has been fortunate in most of its sculptural choices for the last century, acquiring works of permanent value like the Calder stabile and navigating well the transition from Edwardian classicism to midcentury abstraction and beyond. Unfortunately, over the last twenty years an increasing ostentation has been manifesting itself, as much in the concealment of infrastructure and prettifying of rugged interior spaces as in more spectacular follies. One cannot help observing that this trend has coincided with a period of bad financial investments by the Institute and an erosion

of its distinctiveness.

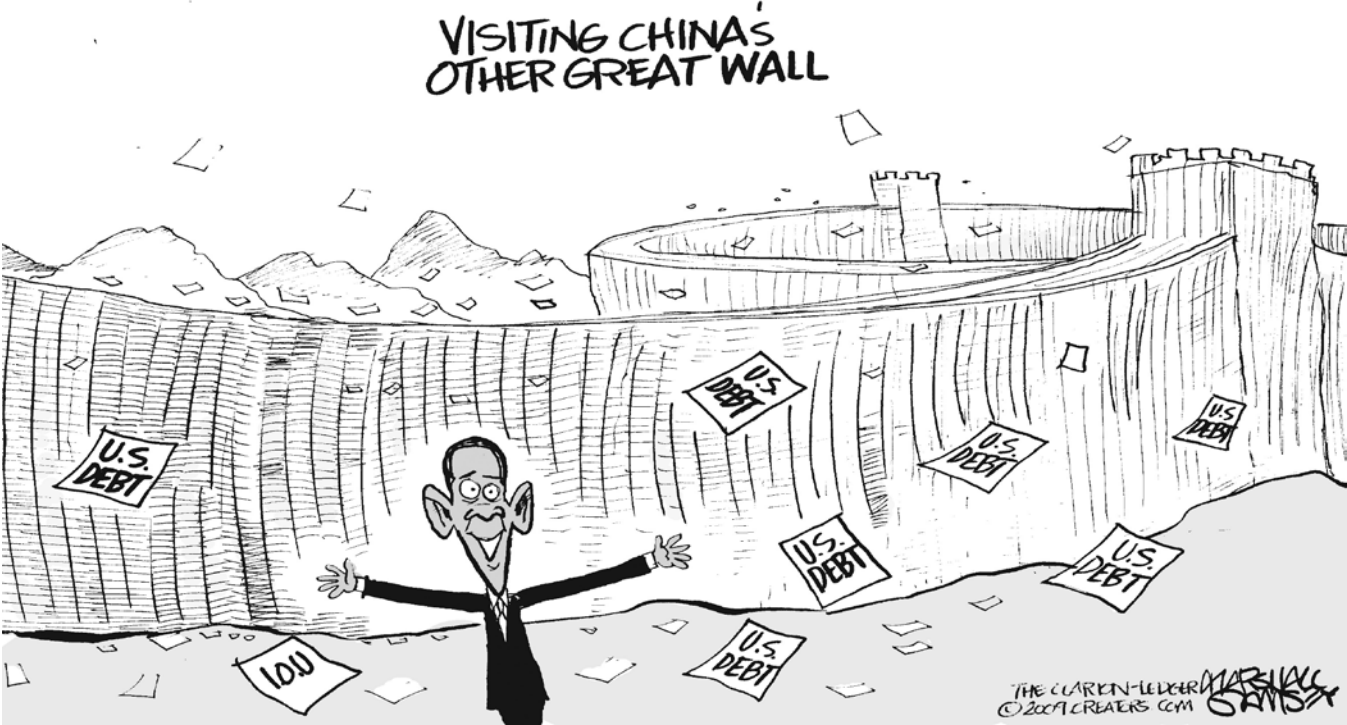
Instead of filling the empty plinths, perhaps an effort should be made to conserve one of the finest and least-known artworks on display in Greater Boston: the mural diptych in the hallway leading to Building 14. This (so far as I know) anonymous work draws a remarkable and unexpected parallel between two well-known myths of great relevance to science, and has far more to do with the ethos and mission of MIT than most of the better-known pieces around campus.

Norman Hugh Redington
The Net Advance of Physics

Corrections

The solution for the sudoku in Tuesday’s issue was incorrect. The correct solution is printed here, to the right.

4	6	8	1	2	9	5	7	3
5	1	2	7	6	3	4	8	9
3	7	9	8	4	5	6	1	2
1	3	4	2	5	7	8	9	6
6	8	7	4	9	1	3	2	5
2	9	5	6	3	8	7	4	1
8	4	3	5	1	2	9	6	7
9	2	6	3	7	4	1	5	8
7	5	1	9	8	6	2	3	4



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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will

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Capitalism and Functioning Democracy Are at Odds

Alexi Goranov

The fundamental debate is whether the right to increases in capital and property supercedes the right to equality, i.e. the right to equal access to labor and life. If the two rights are considered absolute they cannot coexist; one destroys the other (per “What is Property” by French anarchist Joseph-Pierre Proudhon).

If the right to collect capital at the expense of the wellbeing of others is deemed fundamental, then some form of capitalism is the answer. However, if the right to equality, meaning the right to labor and life, is fundamental, then we have to come up with alternatives, and these alternatives need to strengthen the ability of people to govern their own affairs collectively and individually.

The ability to govern one’s affairs also implies that control over resources and the means of productions needs to be shared among people. The attack on property rights that is implicit in this argument is not an attack on the people’s rights to own a house, or a car, or enough land to provide for themselves. It is an attack on the rights of a private entity to exclusively own natural resources (mines, water, land) and means of production (factories and shops) at the expense of all other people who depend on those resources for existence.

For the democratic process to be meaningful, those who are affected by a decision should participate in the decision-making. Democracy and inequality are mutually exclusive. This has been argued by Aristotle, who surmised that in a functioning democracy the dispossessed masses will use the democratic process to redistribute wealth and resources more equally, something that recently happened in Bolivia.

So in a situation with rampant inequality the choices are to decrease inequality, or to restrict democracy (see Noam Chomsky’s *Understanding Power*). That was well understood by our “Founding Fathers,” who chose the latter. They instituted different tools into the system to keep the “less desirable element” (landless peasants, workers, women, slaves, Native Americans, etc.) out of most of the decision making, while

keeping moneyed individuals fairly equal and protected from the mob and from each other (see *The American Political Tradition and the Men Who Made It* by Richard Hofstadter or *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* by Charles Beard).

These principles have been taken and perverted to an extent that even the “Founding Fathers” would find repulsive. The Fourteenth Amendment should protect the equal rights of freed slaves, but of the cases citing this amendment that were brought to the Supreme Court in the years 1890–1910, 19 had to do with the rights of African-Americans and 288 had to do with corporate rights (*People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn). That hints at what group is more capable of protecting its rights, the “haves” or the “have not’s.”

Due to present and profound inequality, the ability of most people to influence the country’s politics is virtually nonexistent, pressing a button every four years notwithstanding. On the other hand, corporations, with their limitless cash and influence, can buy and bully the government into passing legislation that is opposed by the majority of people.

To illustrate the point, the current health care fiasco makes a nice case study. According to a 2005 study by BusinessWeek, 67 percent of the population favors a “single-payer,” aka Medicare-for-All, not-for-profit healthcare system that covers everyone (*BusinessWeek*, May 15, 2005). That is two-thirds of the population. Yet, in our “democratic” system, “single-payer” is not even discussed in Congress. The reason is obvious: It cuts deeply into the profits of insurance and drug companies, and since profits, in the true spirit of capitalism, are more important than people, the “single-payer” legislation (HR.676) is ignored and dismissed. Instead, after a lot of fighting to beat back any chance of a reasonable and meaningful reform, we get a bill with a very weak “public option,” which is likely to be stripped down further in the Senate, a shameful anti-choice amendment. This will likely be coupled with many gifts to the drug industry, such as ensuring certain drugs will never be generic.

A study by IMS Health estimated that the

new healthcare bill will bring the drug industry an increase in sales by \$137 billion over the next four years (“Democracy Now!” November 12, 2009). Guess who will have to pay that extra \$137 billion? A pretty good deal for Big Pharma, but this bill was not cheap for the insurance and drug companies. They paid Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.), the guy in charge of drafting the legislation, at least \$3.5 million. In the first quarter of 2009, Pfizer alone spent \$6 million on “lobbying,” although bribing is a better word for it (*Z Magazine*, October 2008). The Washington Post reports that the drug industry was spending \$1.4 million per day on lobbying for the current legislation (*Z Magazine*, October 2008). Insurance companies also hit the mother lode: individuals and families will be forced to buy private insurance, or pay penalties.

There is nothing efficient in this process. It is wasteful and inefficient in terms of providing healthcare, but it does what it is there to do: secure profits for corporations. What capital wants, capital gets; forget about what millions of Americans actually want or need. “Privatize profit, socialize cost and risk” has always been the corporate motto. The examples are limitless. Just to point to one more, as of November 2009, 58 percent of people are against the war in Afghanistan, yet the government is considering an escalation.

Under the current system, particularly when talking about corporations, people are not in control of what they produce; the corporate board of directors is. Let us take another recent example that illustrates who runs the show. In 2005, residents of a neighborhood of New London, CT were forcefully evicted from their homes after years of legal battles over the concept of “Eminent Domain” (“Democracy Now!” Nov. 13, 2009). The homes were condemned to make space for a private development project, with part of the idea being to make the area more likable to the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer. The development was supposed to bring thousands of jobs. Recently Pfizer announced that it will shut down its research facility in New London and move to another town. Now the lots where people lived and children played are vacant and overgrown.

The first point is that the lives and well-

being of people were sacrificed to cater to a big corporation; nothing new there. The second and more important point is that people who may be affected by a corporation have no say in what the corporation does. If a corporation wants to shut down a plant because it is not profitable to operate, or wants to shift production abroad because it is cheaper, the people in the community and the workers have no control over these decisions although their livelihoods may depend on it. Very democratic, isn’t it?

That efficient production is only possible under the conditions of profit-making, competition, and market discipline is a myth. Let us look at a historic example. During the Spanish Civil War, areas of the country (mostly near Barcelona) became under workers’ control and industry and agriculture were socialized/collectivized. Production was shifted towards what was needed, not what was profitable. What were the results? Workers put in extra effort and production in certain areas of industry increased by 10-fold (*Objectivity and Liberal Scholarship* by Noam Chomsky), new industries, such as optical and chemical, were developed (*The Anarchist Collectives: Workers’ Self-Management in the Spanish Revolution, 1936–1939* by Sam Dolgoff), and agricultural production increased by 50 percent to 75 percent (*Anarchism* by Daniel Guerin).

No one has the right to dictate to people how to live their lives. That is as true for totalitarian regimes as it is true for private, corporate tyrannies! Only people can collectively decide on how to organize their existence and economy. This is the meaning of democracy, and if we are to have democracy not just in form but in substance, people across all classes need to become much more involved in

how the country is run. The abolition of child labor, the institution of an 8-hour working day, Social Security, the Civil Rights Act, etc. were not gifts from the government. These achievements were won by disadvantaged people refusing to be passive bystanders, and by working and bleeding together to win the rights that they deemed fair. So there are examples before us. The question is: Will we follow them?

Alexi Goranov is a postdoc at the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research.

No one has the right to dictate to people how to live their lives. That is as true for totalitarian regimes as it is true for private, corporate tyrannies!

Electronic Communication And Life Histories

Melissa Troyer

Do you think that social networking tools like Facebook and MySpace are eliminating the need for real social interaction? I was doing an Internet survey the other day that was about interactions with close friends — something along the lines of, “list your top five friends, and then list the last way you communicated with them.” For me, few of my closest friends live in the same city as me, so my answers largely involved some form of electronic communication — e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging and others.

To be sure, there’s a difference between posting your status on Facebook as a way of communicating with your friends and family and actually sending personalized messages back and forth via some other form of electronic communication. But is this kind of communication anything like speaking to them in person? It is certainly convenient, and even leads to more live interaction in some cases, though some of the key differences are obvious. You can’t hug your old friend through the Internet, and you can’t use social cues like gaze to interpret what the person means when he or she says it. Communication is generally stripped of all other nonverbal cues as well, including things like prosody and speech disfluencies in the case of text conversations.

It’s been said that one reason humans tend to find mates for life (or at least try our darnedest to achieve this) is because we want another person to attest to our life history — to witness the unfolding of our years. Honestly, my life is pretty well documented through electronic media. Facebook has years worth of pictures and comments and messages, my e-mails go way back, I have accounts on Tumblr and Flickr and Livejournal and Twitter and even OKCupid. I have poetry online that I wrote in high school and my middle school website is still around somewhere on Angelfire.

Do we really need people anymore? When I posed this question to my friends, one of them responded that he completely understood — we have an innate desire to be recorded, so it’s quite consistent with human nature that we would endeavor to record our own lives in a public forum.

When I mentioned this article to my boyfriend and suggested that online social communities may be able to document our lives and eliminate the need for documentation by

You can’t hug your old friend through the Internet, and you can’t use social cues like gaze to interpret what the person means when he or she says it.

another human being, his response was, “You think Facebook eliminates our desire to get married?” No, the issue is a little more complex. First of all, I would like to hope that getting married is about a bit more than documentation! But second of all, when another human being can attest to one’s thoughts, actions, and feelings, there are surely different consequences from those that come from posting what you ate for lunch on Twitter, or posting a Facebook update asking friends which party to go to on Saturday night.

For one thing, when someone else is your witness, the persistence of your thoughts and feelings comes from a second perspective; from someone who has had to adapt their theory of mind to understand what you were experiencing. And that second perspective can last through time. Although you can certainly look up something that was posted on a blog a few weeks ago, being able to access a lifetime of status updates is probably something that will not be as possible. And then, there is also the issue as to how honest

people are in social forums compared with their willingness to open up to friends or romantic partners.

What is interesting is that the tendency to be open in online forums can, at times, cross a fine line between fostering communication and over-sharing. Take Julia Allison’s Nonso-ciety blog, where nearly every minute of her life is recorded via some medium, whether it be text, photograph, or video. Such pseudo-celebrities have received negative criticism for being outlandish and egocentric. But why is she a celebrity? Because she has a big mouth and a nice wardrobe, and she pushed her way to the top.

One of my colleagues recently told me his opinions on such blogs — “Why do people feel the need to record everything they put into their mouths? Half of those damn things are obsessed with mundane day-to-day details, like what you ate for dinner last night.” Apparently someone cares, because those blogs still have plenty of followers. And likely, they are the people that are there to help document that blogger’s life.

Why are we so interested in the minutiae of others’ lives? Westerners certainly get a big kick out of following celebrities’ antics and also from the voyeurism inherent in watching films and reading literature. It might be because we want to relate to the human condition (why else do we get so excited when Woody Allen breaks through the fourth wall and relates his dilemmas to us directly?). Social networking sites definitely make it easier to understand more about the current thoughts and feelings — the synchronic “human condition” — of our friends and acquaintances. And the possible consequences of such free-flowing personal information? Probably both positive and negative, as with many technological innovations. As information flows faster and freer, time will tell whether or not this online social networking fad is as transient as the ’zines of the early ’90s.

Melissa Troyer is a graduate student in Course IX.

UA Update

Senate met on Monday, November 16. Additions to Summer/Fall 2009 Finance Board Appeals were passed, and 41 U.A.S. 6.3: Fresh Fund Allocations allocated money from the Fresh Fund to many newly-recognized student groups. The 2013, 2012, and 2011 Class Council budgets were also approved by Senate. 41 U.A.S. 6.4: Re-Charging the Enrollment Committee, a bill to re-charge the UA Committee on Enrollment in light of the likely increase in enrollment, was passed. Two bills regarding the procedure to nominate a student to a position on an Institute Committee, 41 U.A.S. 6.1: Applicability of Nominations Committee Process and 41 U.A.S. 6.2: Nomination Process for Ex Officio Members of Institute Committees, were presented, but both will be voted on at later meetings. Finally, summaries of the past three years of Senate prepared by the UA History Committee were approved.

The UA Committee on Dining and the Office of Campus Dining are working together to introduce breakfast service in dining halls next fall. The Committee surveyed residents in Baker, McCormick, Next, and Simmons over the weekend to determine their breakfast preferences. More than 700 residents responded, and the survey results will help shape the breakfast program. The data is available on the Committee’s website: ua.mit.edu/dining.

The September Student Holiday will fall on the same day as the Career Fair in 2011 and 2012 after being passed by a vote of the Faculty. In Fall 2011, the Career Fair and Student Holiday will fall on a Wednesday, and in 2012, they will fall on a Friday. Data will be collected so that a further recommendations can be made in Spring 2013 regarding the future of the Student Holiday.

—Elizabeth A. Denys,
UA Secretary General

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

Grab Your Studded Belts, Kids...

...Mom and Dad Are Takin' You to a Show

By Kevin Wang
STAFF WRITER

Taking Back Sunday & All-American Rejects
Showcase Live, Foxboro, Mass.
November 10, 2009

Have you ever seen an eight-year-old child headbanging? Ever had a bearded, screaming stranger claim that he could be your own personal therapist? Ever seen an eleven-year-old wearing a shirt declaring that “The All-American Rejects Are Really Good Looking”? If so, you probably need professional help, but you might also have attended Taking Back Sunday and the All-American Rejects’ concert at the intimate Showcase Live last week.

After missing the first opening act, Anberlin, due to a GPS-related disaster, my intrepid photographer and I found ourselves at the Showcase Live in Foxboro. We arrived just as the second opener, Taking Back Sunday, stormed the stage amidst an ear-crunching cacophony of adolescent screaming. The band jumped right into a brief but excellent set, featuring a number of solid rock songs, and their music was really excellent. The “emo” style of screaming which is so obnoxious when heard on a recording is considerably more manageable in a live setting, and their sound was much heavier and fuller than I had expected. Virtually all aspects of Taking Back Sunday’s too-brief set were great, and I was extremely impressed.

Demographically, the concert was essentially identical to the premier of one of the “Twilight” movies, proving once again that electric guitars and cheesily sensitive lyrics have powerful effects on the youth of America. Unsurprisingly, a large contingent of the audience were almost certainly parents, although it was amusing to imagine that a large group of 50-somethings with beer-bellies were extremely moved by the lyrics “The notes are old / They bend they fold / And so do I to a new love.”

It was also great to see a small number of real, living, emo kids in attendance, as going to a Taking Back Sunday concert and not seeing an emo kid is like going to a hockey game and not seeing a fistfight: you may still have a good time, but you’re really missing some of the key experiences. Having the opportunity to see some live emo kids in Massachusetts was excellent, as I was able to witness some bondage pants, studded belts, and eyeliner junkies without having to deal with the chemical refineries, traffic conditions, and violent crimes which make trips to New Jersey (the emo kid’s natural habitat) such a pleasure.



DAVE FERNHOLZ

All-American Rejects guitarist, Nick Wheeler, sports an undoubtedly outdated haircut. Regardless, the band played a rocking headlining set in Foxboro, Mass. on November 10.

After a brief break, the All-American Rejects took the stage. The arrival of their lead singer, the rail thin Tyson Ritter, created many more questions than it answered: “Is that guy covered in sweat, or so much glitter that it’s reflecting the stage lights? Did he steal his pants from a third grader? Is he auditioning for a UNICEF commercial, a B-list porno, or both?” Weighing in at a shirtless 85 lbs. and covered in a seizure-inducing heap of glitter, Ritter effortlessly slipped along the fine line between a 1984 Van Halen video and a PSA on the dangers of anorexia. Additionally, his strange appearance and bizarre mannerisms

(namely, hip thrusting at a bunch of clearly adoring high-schoolers while calling them “naughty girls”) managed to simultaneously channel both Michael Jackson and a heroin addict.

That said, I must admit that the Rejects’ music sounds far more substantial live than I had anticipated. I began the night expecting a Miley Cyrusian bonanza of horrifically auto-tuned abominations, and was pleasantly surprised by the quality of their music. While nowhere near as heavy as Taking Back Sunday, the All-American Rejects’ live guitar sounds seem to have at least partially escaped the commercial

castration that only MTV can provide. Ritter did occasionally go off on bizarre yodeling solos, but he balanced these vocal histrionics with some solid performances, most notably the acoustic ballad “Mona Lisa,” which was actually quite a lovely song.

Overall, I would say that I enjoyed this evening at Showcase Live. While the amount of high school shrieking at the start and end of each song still reverberates in my ears like a demonic version of *High School Musical*, both bands certainly exceeded my expectations with regard to their music and delivered solid, enjoyable performances.

INTERVIEW

Matthew Fazzi Tells All

A Closer Look at Joining Taking Back Sunday

By Kevin Wang
STAFF WRITER

Taking Back Sunday guitarist and back-up vocalist Matthew Fazzi took a minute to talk to *The Tech* about joining the band and the current tour.

The Tech: How did you end up playing with TBS? You joined the band fairly recently, how did that work out?

MF: Eddie (Reyes, guitarist) was actually a fan of my previous band, I met him on the 2004 Warped Tour with my band Facing New York. I just met Eddie, showed him our band, he really liked it and we just kind of became friends like that. Eventually they took us out in 2006, and when (Fred Mascherino) quit the band I just got a text from Eddie asking if I wanted to audition, so it was very cosmic, weird, and awesome. I owe a lot to Eddie for giving me the opportunity.

TT: Were you a fan of Taking Back Sunday before you joined?

MF: For sure. That’s how I was kind of able to recognize Eddie, I knew a whole lot about them: They had just put out “Where You Want to Be” and they were one of the biggest bands of the moment, and at Warped Tour they were one of the largest bands that year. So I was definitely a fan of their band, I had both of their records at the time, so it was definitely an easy transition for me. When I joined I knew all of the songs already so everything became like, cake, you know.

TT: Were you hazed mercilessly when you

joined, or was it more of a smooth transition?

MF: (Laughs) Not at all, actually. We were actually just talking about that because one of my best friends, Isaac, was in a similar situation and there’s been little to no hazing of us whatsoever, I think because we’re such laid-back California kids they don’t have the heart to come down on us hard at all.

TT: Is it interesting to make the transition from being in a smaller band supporting other bands to being in Taking Back Sunday and having other bands support your own tour?

MF: It’s a trip out, dude. I’ve been doing a lot of band touring and playing for no one for 6 or 7 years, and to go from that extreme of playing in front of two people that don’t care to playing in front of 20,000 is just such a trip out, it’s the coolest thing in the world, and it’s something that I hope I don’t take for granted for even one second. I know that I’m super fortunate to be in the position that I’m in and the position that we’re in, especially in these times with the economy and people just not buying music anymore, but luckily Taking Back Sunday is doing well. I mean dude, everything is a privilege and it’s the raddest job in the world and

I couldn’t complain or ask for a better dream job.

TT: What’s the most insane thing that you’ve ever seen on tour, either with your own band or with Taking Back Sunday?

MF: Man, I don’t know, that’s like one of those questions where when you get the question your mind goes totally blank and you can’t think of anything cool. I’m sure the second I get off the phone I’ll think of something. The craziest thing for me is the size of some of the shows that we’ve played, playing in front of 50,000 or 60,000 people. That to me, is crazy. But I guess one crazy story is that we were playing Hartford for our May-June tour. It was the day that Michael Jackson died, so it was just a weird day, a weird vibe all around, and when we were headlining that night a kid got up on stage, and he must have been standing there for only about 2 seconds. I’m also going to preface this by saying that this kid was maybe 5’7”, 150 lbs., so a really average, to smaller than average kid. So he gets on stage for all of two seconds, and the biggest, burliest, football playing security guy just runs across the stage and destroys this kid. Tackles him like he’s playing in the NFL. For sure if

“To go from that extreme of playing in front of two people that don’t care to playing in front of 20,000 is just such a trip out, it’s the coolest thing in the world.”

it was just a weird day, a weird vibe all around, and when we were headlining that night a kid got up on stage, and he must have been standing there for only about 2 seconds. I’m also going to preface this by saying that this kid was maybe 5’7”, 150 lbs., so a really average, to smaller than average kid. So he gets on stage for all of two seconds, and the biggest, burliest, football playing security guy just runs across the stage and destroys this kid. Tackles him like he’s playing in the NFL. For sure if

you go search on Youtube you’ll find it somewhere. It all happened in slow motion to me. I don’t know if you ever watched wrestling when you were younger, but that move that that Austin bald guy would do, where he runs all the way across from the other side and just nails you, that’s what this guy did. Imagine a guy who’s like 6’5”, 250, just pummeling the smallest kid in the world.

TT: Well you know that guy lives for that moment.

MF: Yeah, and you could see it in his eyes, he was just ready for that. He was just waiting to tackle the first person that he saw. But that’s the only thing that I can really think of (laughs). We don’t really get gnarly crazy things like people jumping and trying to steal our shoes or anything.

TT: What are your plans after this tour, what can we expect to hear from Taking Back Sunday coming up?

MF: We put out a live record last week, it’s the first legitimate live thing that we’ve done that really encompasses all four records. So that’s kind of new and I really encourage people to check that out. Otherwise we have another month to go on this tour and we have a few secret things that we have planned, and after that we’re going to Australia. We’d also talked about trying to do some sort of acoustic thing, so that’s sort of in the mix somewhere. But for the immediate feature it’s just getting through this tour and taking a break for a second.

INTERVIEW

Synthetics to Shalimar

Chandler Burr Speaks About the World of Scent

By Nina Sinatra

Art is a sensual experience in each of its forms. Paying a visit to a contemporary museum, to the opera, or to a particularly exquisite bistro never fails to herald the breathtaking beauty that our senses can create and detect. Who hasn't stood in awe before a Monet, shed a tear during *Madame Butterfly*, or furrowed a brow before an exotic dish? The senses are the ultimate medium through which we experience the joy of life. Often a bystander to the mental perception of art, scent is (quite ironically) the most deeply corporeal and imaginative of all the senses. This most precise ability permits us to detect the sharp hint of citrus, the questionably musty signature of a city street, or the musk romanticism of an Oriental spice. What better medium to express the natural beauty of scent than through perfume? The art of creating a perfume begins in a cosmetic chemist's laboratory, mixing together an enticing blend of molecules. Synthetics (molecules created in a lab) and absolutes (aromatic, oily mixtures extracted from plants) together can yield an infinite spectrum of scents. Perfumers work to create a scent that expresses the vision of their clients, whether that inspiration be a city, a painting, an experience, or an instance in time. In order to better understand the world of perfume, I had the opportunity to speak with one of the world's premiere experts on the subject: Chandler Burr. Burr, who writes the

"Scent Notes" column of *The New York Times*, has written several books about perfume, the theory of scent, and the industry that brings them together. He is known for the unique means through which he conveys the nature of perfume, through descriptions as exotic, interactive, tactile, and engrossing as the scents themselves. *The Tech*: What is your favorite part of your work? *Chandler Burr*: Writing the reviews — which is a very strange answer. I'm pretty sure it was Dorothy Parker who said, "I hate to write, I love having written," but this is the only case in which I love the actual act of sitting, thinking, and the fingers hitting they keys. I'm completely absorbed in it. This is because, I think, art criticism is a completely different kind of writing than any other. *TT*: How would you describe the appeal of perfume to an individual unfamiliar with its intricacies? *CB*: Several ways. One, I've discovered, is simply communicating to the reader the oh so astonishing idea that perfume is an artistic medium. ("Huh! Hm! Uh ... yeah, I've never thought of it like that.") Then the fact that, just as a painter uses paints to compose a painting, perfumers use raw materials, absolutes, synthetic molecules, to create their olfactory

paintings. And then simply describe the olfactory work of art and what it makes you feel, how well or poorly it's executed and why. Do it well, and anyone can get it. *TT*: One of your books, *The Emperor of Scent*, discusses Luca Turin's vibration theory of olfaction. What inspired you to write about this subject? *CB*: The absolutely fascinating story, exactly the same thing any reporter is looking for. Luca is a genius, and it's interesting to spend time with a genius, and he's got a huge, wonderful, difficult, open, generous, vindictive, explosive, startling, compelling personality. The story of what he's done and, equally, what he's been through mesmerized me. The book is, as all good books are, in the end about a human life and its vicissitudes and challenges and triumphs and dark places. *TT*: Your work as the *New York Times*' perfume critic is very much a balance between creativity, precision, and originality. Which do you feel is most important when creating and marketing a perfume? *CB*: You're asking me a question the second part of which is officially outside my purview — I'm not a perfume industry exec — but creating is artistic vision, creativity, the willingness to do something different, the wisdom to know where to stop doing some-

"I am lucky enough to be in a position to propose to the world this startling idea that there's an art form they never knew about."

INTERVIEW

Expanding on Minimalism

'The Tech' Interviews Conductor Miguel Felipe About Thomas Jennefelt's Villarosa Sequences

By Sudeep Agarwala

STAFF WRITER
Boston Choral Ensemble
Thomas Jennefelt's Villarosa Sequences
November 20 — First Church, Cambridge
November 22 — Old South Church, Boston

The Boston Choral Ensemble prepares for its 2009–2010 season featuring Thomas Jennefelt's *Villarosa Sequences* on Friday, November 20 at First Church in Cambridge and Sunday, November 22 at Old South Church in Boston. *The Tech* interviewed conductor Miguel Felipe about the upcoming program. More information about this performance and the Boston Choral Ensemble can be found at <http://www.bostonchoral.org/> *The Tech*: The Boston Choral Ensemble (BCE) has a very specific mission statement. Could you tell me more about that? *Miguel Felipe*: BCE is was founded about nine years ago; I've been here for six years and

as part of my own musical evolution — and therefore that of the group's — was to move towards a group that's dedicated to exploring musics of all genres and time periods and in ways that draw the connections and, not so overtly, demonstrate the relevancies, and the connection to daily life. Now we're a group of around 32 who are interested in innovative performance style and bringing music to people in a way that they aren't going to traditionally hear it. *TT*: What do you look for when you're listening to a piece of music? *MF*: First things first (and if it doesn't meet this characteristic, it's enough to altogether skip the piece), it needs to be written with a strong sense of the voice and it needs to be well-crafted. We're not talking about genius right now, we're talking about competence. If the composer's music doesn't lie well for the voice, I'm not interested. That's not to say that I'm not interested in difficult pieces; dif-

ficulty is, by no means, a reason to pass over a piece. But there has to be some sense that the singer will be gratified and be able to enjoy performing the piece. Occasionally, texts are what draw me into a piece, but by no means is that a defining characteristic. For instance, this upcoming concert there are no texts, and that's not an issue. *TT*: I guess this is a good segue into the *Villarosa Sequences*. When you first heard the work, what was something that grabbed you? *MF*: I remember the very moment I first heard it — I was in a city in Northern Indonesia for a conference, called Manado: we were in a rehearsal room, a conference room, that there was a choir trying out some of their repertoire. And I wanted to go see how they were. And as I walked in, the women were working on their movement, the *Virita criosa*. I was just a casual observer, I had no idea what was going on, listening to them perform it, I thought, "Oh my God! What is this?" It's not quite like

anything you've ever heard. I was immediately compelled. That night, they did at least one or two other movements, I do know that they did *Claviante briliioso*, which is, perhaps, one of the most enjoyable movements of the whole thing. And after hearing the two, I spoke with the conductor, and I since made contact with the composer and a number of commissioner of the movements and things went from there. *TT*: Let's go ahead and talk about the piece; one word that really comes to mind when you think about the *Villarosa Sequences* is an extreme sense of "minimalism" — am I wrong in saying that? *MF*: Certainly, one hears much of that in *Villarosa*, that there is a sense of minimalism. Indeed, there is much repetition, a steady pulse, largely diatonic pitches and relatively 'minimal' means. So it is of the minimalist strain, but perhaps one could call it post-minimalist. Perhaps unlike other minimalist examples, there is this great amount of expressiveness that you don't hear in the minimalism of the '70s or the '80s. There are moments when the sopranos are singing their hearts out on beautiful, lyrical melodies, or the baritones have a sweeping gesture that's almost a Romantic feeling. *TT*: What would you listen for, as an audience member, when you're first coming to this work? *MF*: Well, it sounds a bit like trance music — something that came out of the 1980s New York club scene, the popular brother of minimalist music, which is the concert-hall brother of trance. So people who are more well-versed with popular music (let alone with trance) can come to this and feel more at home than with the traditional Germanic 19th century Romantic situation. When I listen to minimalist music, the first thing I do is to try and get into the "groove" — that constant, steady, rhythmic "groove" — and to me, that's actually quite beautiful, and I connect quite well with that steady "groove." *TT*: How does BCE's mission statement fit in with this concert in particular? *MF*: BCE is constantly focused on bringing what we think is good music to people and trying to illustrate why it's important, beautiful and relevant. In my estimation, we have a wonderful ensemble that could pull off the motets of Bach so well, could do Brahms, could do so much that, and quite honestly, audiences would come out for in droves. I think that, in Boston, there are already quite a number of groups that are fantastic at doing those. But there's also a need for people pushing the envelope forward; we hope to be part of that necessary dialog just as other groups focus on some of the more canonical repertoire. They're establishing what's culturally central; we're trying to suggest where that culture is going.



Ryan Green (left) and Cameron Hood of Ryanhood put on a concert at Cafe 939 at Berklee on Saturday night. Cameron encourages the crowd to sing along as Ryan strums his guitar. The pair, who began performing on the streets of Boston, have now released 5 CDs.

FENG WU—THE TECH

MOVIE REVIEW

Daring Director Explores the Perception of God

23 Countries Later, A Documentary Is Born

By Yü Linlin Huang

Oh My God!
Written and Directed by Peter Rodger
Now Playing

What is God? The question begs an answer for which generations of human beings have waged war against one another to prove themselves correct. And yet, the answer is still out there, waiting for the reconciliation between beliefs before making a universal debut. Meanwhile, the world is in chaos. Does it make any sense that those who claim to love God would get on an airplane and fly themselves into a building while taking thousands of innocents' lives? Does it make any sense for the leader of a free nation to embark upon war because God told him to? Does it make sense that God would cause the world so much suffering and turmoil on his behalf? One man, impatient in waiting for religious reconciliation and tired of the childish bickering between religions has taken it upon himself to find the answer. The documentary and political commentary *Oh My God!* is the video journal of director Peter Rodger which details his discoveries through the entire voyage of finding the answer to his question, "What is God?" His quest has taken him on a 3 year journey through 23 countries from the Plains of America to the temples of Little Tibet, from the small communities of the Aborigines to the South American jungles, from the disaster-devastated New Orleans to the high ridges of the Himalayans. While watching the documentary, the audience is given the chance to meet Rabbis, Priests, Buddhist Llamas, Muslim radicals, Christian fundamentalists, famous people, and ordinary men and women from around the world, and hear their answer to Rodger's simple question.

The results of Rodger's journey is at the same time predictable and surprising. Between stunningly scenic backgrounds of the wilderness and close-ups of people embodying diverse cultures and religions, Rogers's passion for finding an answer proves that even though each religion has different rules, their concept of God is one and the same: God is love. One of the most memorable comments about God and faith came from Hugh Jackman: "If you put Buddha, Jesus Christ, Socrates, Shakespeare, Arjuna and Krishna at a dinner table together, I can't see them having any argument." The film also displays atheism and reasons for being an atheist. Sir Bob Geldof thinks that the entire concept of a supreme being is "rubbish." "Why are you looking for an answer?" Some believe that the concept of God was created so that people could feel better about themselves. After all, when something bad happens, who do we blame it on? *Oh My God!*, released on November 13, is a worthwhile investment, even if you have no opinion about religion. This is more than a commentary on faith; it is more of a description of how the world has survived the human race and the happy realization that there is still hope for reconciliation.

INTERVIEW

'Oh My God!' Director Talks with 'The Tech'

Peter Rodger Discusses Inspiration, Lessons Learned Filming the Documentary

By Yü Linlin Huang

Peter Rodger is an award-winning British director whose unique photo-imagery craftsmanship makes him one of the most sought-after artists in the British and American advertisement industry. *Oh My God!* is the three year, life-changing non-fiction film that explored peoples' perspectives about God which debuted on November 13. *The Tech:* On the *Oh My God!* website you wrote in the director's statement that you wanted to travel around the world to 23 countries and ask what people thought about God because you were fed up with people fighting in the name of God. But what is the one definitive thing that made you finally decide to go on your quest?

Peter Roger: I was going up a ski lift in Utah in 2006. Something happens to you when you're in a beautiful space. I was on a ski lift and I was thinking about wanting to reconnect with the world, and I thought what is one thing that I can do to help me to do that? I didn't want to go back to advertising. I thought that if I ask people on a base level about what they thought about God and not just political leaders, then I can get something concrete. Some people may call this an epiphany but I don't think this is the right word to describe it. The idea to shoot this documentary was born out of frustration and born out of desire to travel.

TT: How did your idea transform into a documentary? Which came first, the desire to shoot a documentary or the desire to find out what people thought about God?

PR: The desire of filming a documentary first; I wanted to make stories with my camera and capture the world with a photographic image. I was the son of a famous photojournalist George Rodger who was a founder of Magnum Photos. I was motivated by a visual desire to use what I was taught through my heritage. I was taught at a very young age to use light cameras to capture the world; what I was taught was "how to learn how to see." You have to organically experience something to really see it. This ideology of anthropological study through camera lens came from that.

TT: What was your goal in going around the world to ask that question? What do you hope to accomplish by producing this documentary?

PR: My thought was to educate. My frustration comes from the result of what I believe is people using the name of God to manipulate the ignorant. What I want to do is to explore the entity that is God from an objective point of view. The motivation of it was to educate so that we can understand others' points of view and realize the similarities that humans have with each other. Most of the time, the issue of religion is easily bigoted. The ideas that argue "my God is better than your God" are politicized statements. Some people may not have had the opportunity to make up their own minds. Out of learning what people think God is, perhaps we can learn to have an actual argument or discussion about it. For the most part, we are all the same — we all have two arms, two legs, and a kidney, you know — but we like to push others away even though we're similar. We can learn something about our neighbors and find that we are much more united than we are divided. Hopefully this documentary will lead to some sort of tolerance.

TT: When you were filming, were you afraid that the documentary will be sort of hit or miss? Were you worried that some people are just too intolerant to appreciate the film?

PR: The answer is very simple. There's a subplot that's going on here. The film is ultimately about faith. Faith is the one thing that can kill fear. Yet it's so divided. So I was constantly fearful I was doing something that people are too self-righteous to approach. My hope and faith tells me I shouldn't worry and that I should let go. I should just focus on my journey. The reality is, though, I don't know where the journey ends. However, faith tells me that if I'm doing something good and something that's strong, I shouldn't have to worry about people not accepting it. Here is something that describes the embodiment of what I wanted to achieve: Jihad Turk, director of religious affairs at the Islamic Center of Southern California who

was in the film, organized people from the mosque to attend the film premiere on Saturday night. They bought tickets and invited me to meet with a group of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim community to discuss the film. We all talked about our similarities; it was the most wonderful evening that I've experienced. Their concept of faith is so simple. They realized that their Prophets are all preaching the same things. The film bringing together these people to discuss the topic of God peacefully is a great reward for me personally.

TT: Can you tell me a little about the people that you interviewed and something that surprised you about them?

PR: What I did was I went to different countries and I found anchor points, like people I knew I would get at a certain time. Like if I was going to India I would go see person X or person Y. I would let the conversation of that person take me to the next person. At end of film when, I was in a children's cancer ward. The most surprising and most rewarding event for me was when I asked a young child about facing death. His answer was so selfless and strong and emotional. *TT:* Compare how you viewed God before and after the film; did your perception change? How?

PR: Before, I really didn't think about it much, but after I thought about it a lot. I was brought up as a follower of the Anglican Church of England. But I diverged from religion. After filming the documentary, I found the topic of God to be less complicated to the nth degree. Basically, you are born, you live, and you die. What is important is what we do as individuals during the time. There's a wonderful bond within humanity. Some people say that God is the energy that binds us together. We, as individuals, have much more power to change the world to be a better place than just being sheep. If each of us does one kind act to another each day, the world would be a better place. I learned that responsibility lies with the individual and not with a group.

TT: In the film, you brought up that maybe man created God instead of the other way around. What do you think about that question? Have any comments?

PR: We both created each other. God is a word that describes something that describes we can't actually comprehend. God is self-perpetuating. People try to compartmentalize God and try to divide this word up to small regions. God makes us stick together and push away from each other. God is the very essence of life, the reason that we're here. But it's also a word that people use to describe their version of reality. Man created God and God created man at the same time because we're all Gods in a sense.

TT: After watching the film, I thought that the overall notion of what God is is almost a consensus: love, goodness, hope, etc. If that's the case, how can there be so much suffering?

PR: On my journey, I met Zen Master Kanju Tanaka from Kyoto, Japan; he denies existence because he believes we're already in paradise. What we have around us is paradisiacal and it's our responsibility to understand it. Those who are struggling have to change their perception; what they must not do is get really angry. They must shift their minds and look at life in a different perceptive. You control how happy you are.

TT: That's a mind boggling concept to grasp. *PR:* If you can turn around the very thing that makes you depressed, you will be happy. Isn't that what the balance of life is? You can not be happy without being sad; you can't be happy all the time.

TT: On your journey have you met any who would refuse to answer your questions? Or have you met any who is unable to answer your questions?

PR: Neither. They all had their own perception of God. Once you get your camera on, they all have something to say.

TT: Okay, final question; in no more than two sentences, what is God?

PR: [Laughter] God is my inner self and God is everyone else's inner self at the same time, and God is the very truth and the battery that makes everything exist. God is also the reservoir that holds every single thought that's ever thought by anybody ever — *anima mundi* — and maybe also a reservoir for a thought that hasn't yet occurred.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Hi-fi, Lo-fi, Faux-fi

Brooklyn's Dirty Projectors a Hipster Magnet

By **Matt Fisher**
STAFF WRITER

Dirty Projectors
Paradise Rock Club, Boston, MA
November 17, 2009

The sold out Paradise Rock Club filled up early in preparation for Tuesday night's Concert. The youngish crowd, a veritable hipster-bingo board of plaid, alt-girl headbands, and greasy faux-hawks, could probably have contributed enough optical strength with their combined square-rimmed glasses to focus the death star. Similarly hip, the Brooklyn-based Dirty Projectors took the stage to crowd calls of "let's get dirty!" and vigorously belted out their unique, soaring rock music.

Presenting an unusual mix of hi-fi and lo-fi production sounds on their studio work, I had no idea what to expect from this eclectic, experimental six-piece. With frequent — and

beautiful — four-part vocal harmony set over ragged, spastic guitar bites, the Dirty Projectors have made a name for themselves recently as a band unafraid to try out new techniques or repossess older ideas and make them their own. This adventurous attitude can be seen in the breadth of their catalogue that spans the early release *The Getty Address*, an orchestral concept album about aging musician Don Henley, to the newer *Rise Above*, an album supposedly composed of Black Flag covers made entirely from the memory of Dirty Projectors frontman Dave Longstreth. (To wit: Longstreth holds his guitar backwards, plucking and picking with his left hand instead of his right. While one wouldn't assume this to be immediately noticeable, it was surprisingly disconcerting.)

Playing songs almost entirely off their two most recent albums *Rise Above* and *Bitteorca*, the Dirty Projectors played a set that closely resembled their studio sound. This is not an

easy feat — after watching them live and comprehending that much of the scat-singing and electric-sounding background music on their albums is actually the three back-up singers creating well-pitched noises in perfect time with each other. This complex and impressive vocal-work was most apparent in their song "Remade Horizon." Somehow, between the gunky, hollow-sounding guitar riffs and layered, scattered vocal accompaniment, the band more closely resembled an electrified and reverberated music box: each note plucked mechanically and separately on the little copper petals, but inexorably linked in time to the notes before it and after by the rotating wheel.

Throughout the first five songs, the band hemorrhaged members at an alarming rate, ceasing when only two band members remained. Changing gears slightly, Longstreth exchanged his electric guitar for an acoustic, and played "Two Doves" as a simple duet with

Angel Deradoorian, one of the band's several talented back-up singers. The band reunited for the next several songs, including one with an upright bass ("Spray Paint") and another ("Thirsty and Miserable") that ended in an almost Sonic Youth-esque guitar meltdown.

At most rock shows, one feels the music through the lower registers; the overly-amplified bass line has enough power to shake your body. This was not the case on Tuesday. The raw guitar, soaring vocal arrangements, and Longstreth's own strong voice forced almost all of the band's power into the upper registers, creating the odd consequence of actually feeling the tenor noise. That I experienced something musically new at a Dirty Projector's concert should not be a surprise. Fearless, wide-ranging, and talented, if you want to know what's next in rock music, listen to the Dirty Projector's last album — if you want a vision of what rock music should be, listen to their most recent.

House of Blues

Hosts Medeski, Martin & Wood

Medeski, Martin & Wood perform on November 13 at the House of Blues.

(clockwise from right)

John Medeski stands up to solo one of his many keyboards. In concert, he's typically surrounded by a collection of old organs, electronic keyboards, and even a grand piano.

Drummer Billy Martin announced the upcoming release of "Evolutionary Box Set," which includes three of the group's latest releases, a DVD, a live album, and a remix album among other treats.

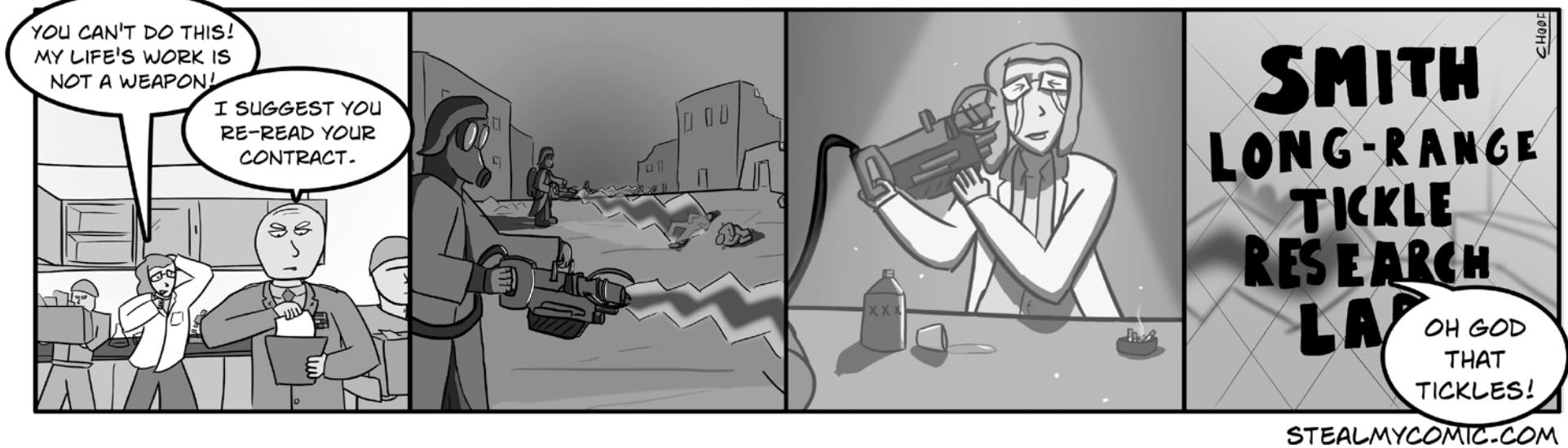
Bassist, Chris Wood, plays at the concert. Wood will return to Boston to perform with his brother on December 8 at the Paradise Rock Club.

Photography by S. Balaji Mani



Steal My Comic

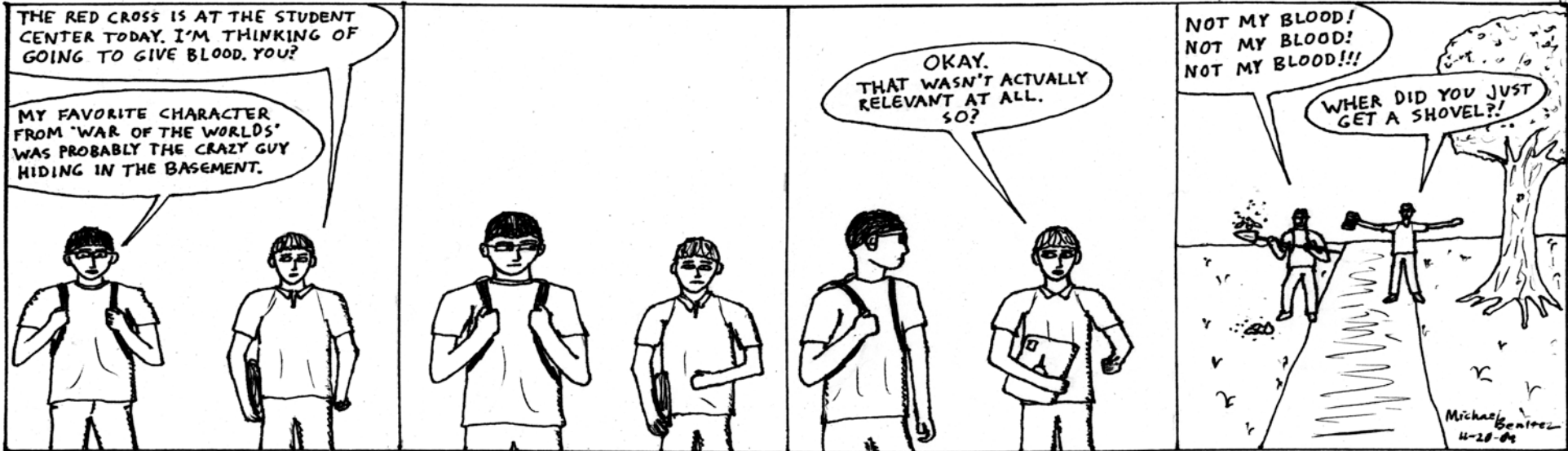
by Michael Ciuffo



STEALMYCOMIC.COM

Help Desk

by Michael Benitez



Sudoku

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. *Solution on page 14.*

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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

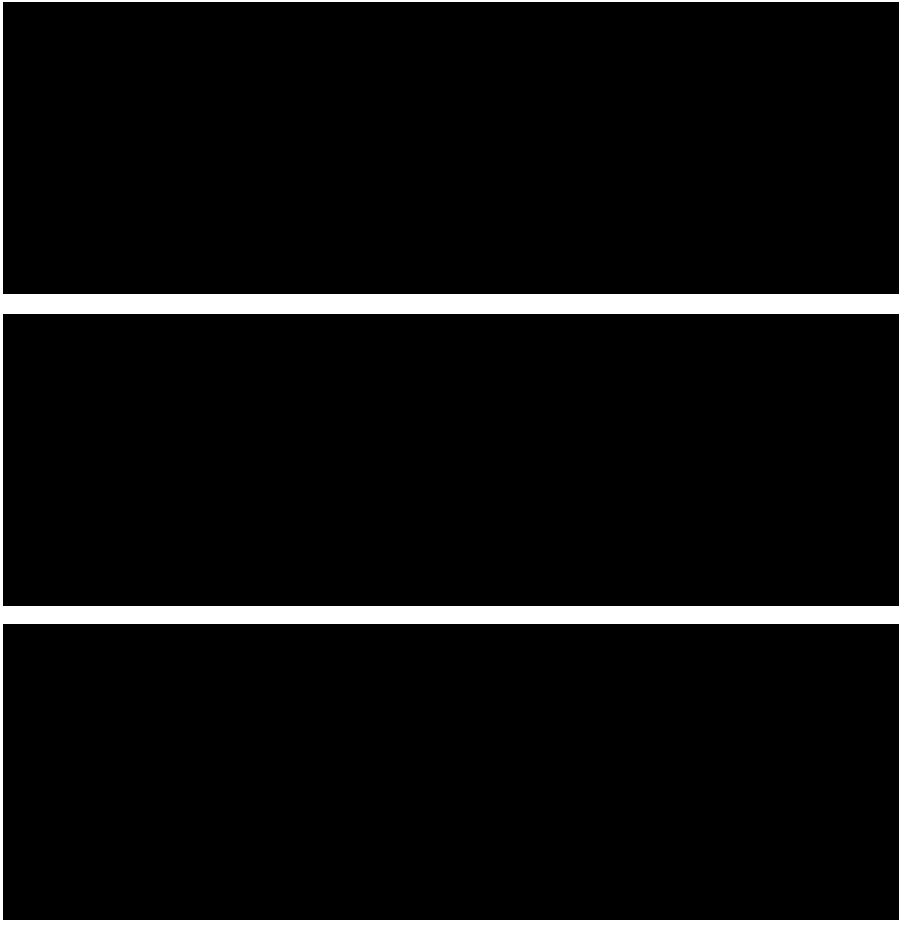
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- 9 ___ Ababa
- 14 Fridge problem
- 15 R-rating reason, perhaps
- 16 Longship sailors
- 17 Maximum tolerance for a stand-up comic's jokes?
- 19 AT&T Park player
- 20 Start of a memorable 1961 admonition
- 21 Force
- 23 Gripe
- 25 Slippery swimmer
- 26 "All Trotsky, all the time" channel?
- 33 In favor of
- 34 Flight-related
- 35 Clichéd
- 36 It's often left in the copier: Abbr.
- 38 Wolf (down)
- 41 Mountain ride
- 42 Marine threats
- 44 Edible seaweed used

- for sushi
 - 46 Clear
 - 47 When dogs can't run loose?
 - 51 Estuary
 - 52 Senior golfer Aoki
 - 53 Lover's sweet talk?
 - 58 Precipitated
 - 62 Cuban boy in 2000 news
 - 63 Nuts about Danish toys?
 - 65 Confuse—or what to do to four common phrases to form this puzzle's theme answers
 - 66 Plus-size supermodel
 - 67 To be, in Brest
 - 68 Hull damagers
 - 69 Signs of nervousness
 - 70 Interpret, as tea leaves
- DOWN**
- 1 1970 hit by the Kinks
 - 2 Summer coolers
 - 3 Religious ascetic
 - 4 You can count on a lot of bucks from

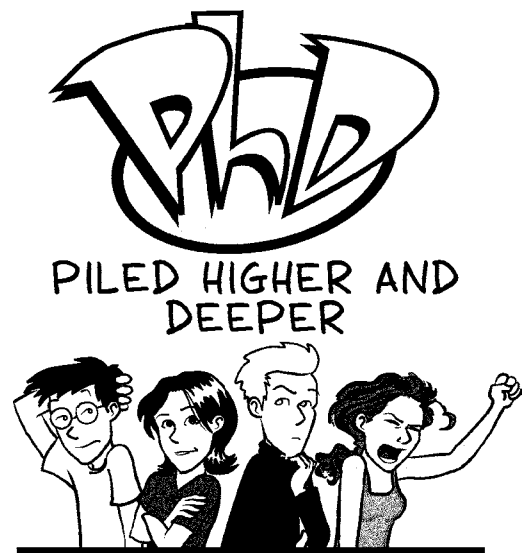
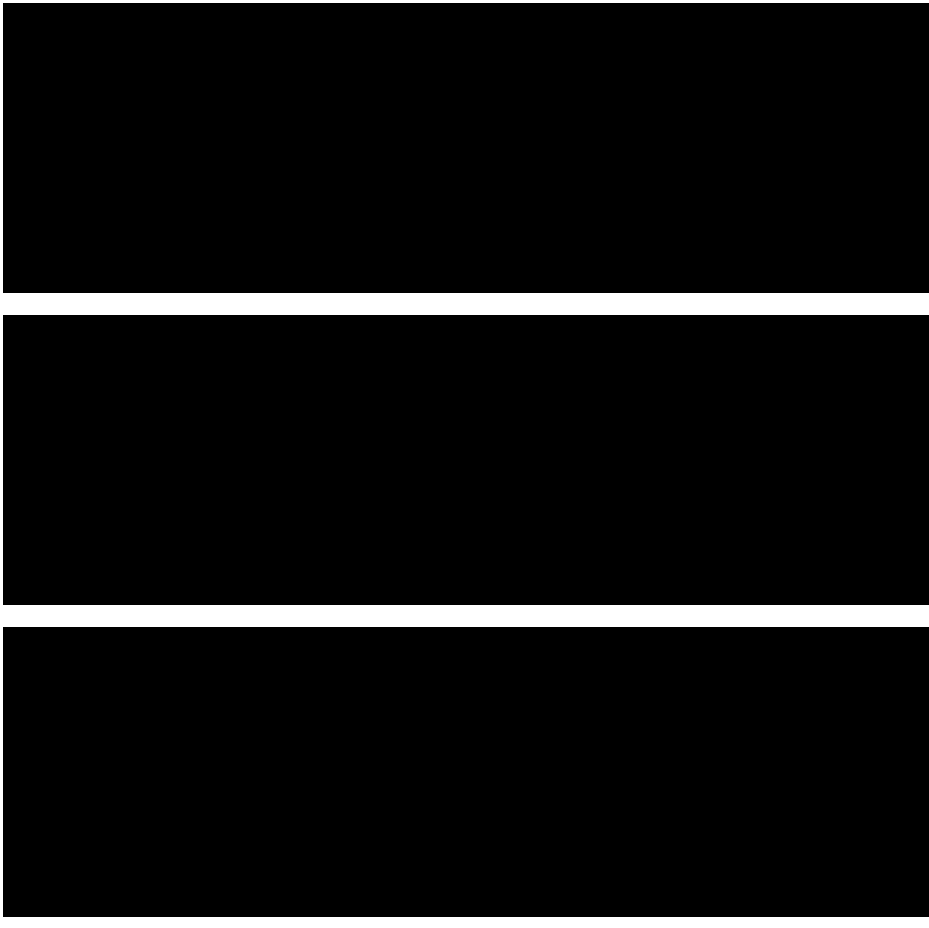
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- 6 CD follower?
- 7 Songwriter Kristofferson
- 8 Den piece
- 9 Saintly
- 10 Knock off
- 11 Big bore
- 12 "___ that special!"
- 13 Clockmaker Thomas
- 18 Doone in Exmoor
- 22 Relig. title
- 24 Capital northwest of Rome
- 26 He played Ugarte in "Casablanca"
- 27 "All My Children" vixen
- 28 "___ behold!"
- 29 Sad sound
- 30 Skater Slutskaya
- 31 Best way to sing
- 32 Veto from Lenin
- 33 Mislead
- 37 Great time, slangily
- 39 Rice-A-___
- 40 Sistine Chapel features
- 43 Sacred sites
- 45 "I, Robot" author Asimov
- 48 Come out on top
- 49 Aerie newborn
- 50 More morose
- 53 Adjacent
- 54 Quaint retail adjective
- 55 Sand castle's undoing
- 56 Even share, perhaps
- 57 Huge hauler
- 59 Fill
- 60 Biblical reformer
- 61 Like blue hair
- 64 Tracker maker

Doonesbury
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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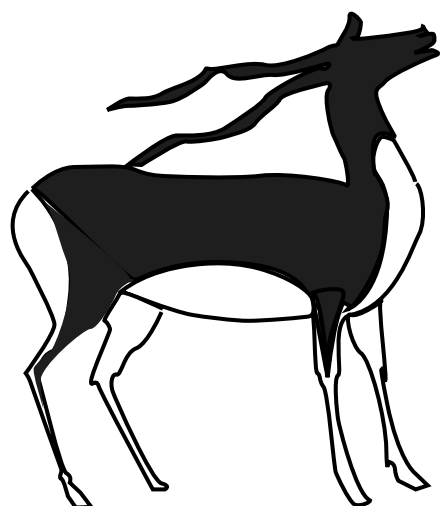
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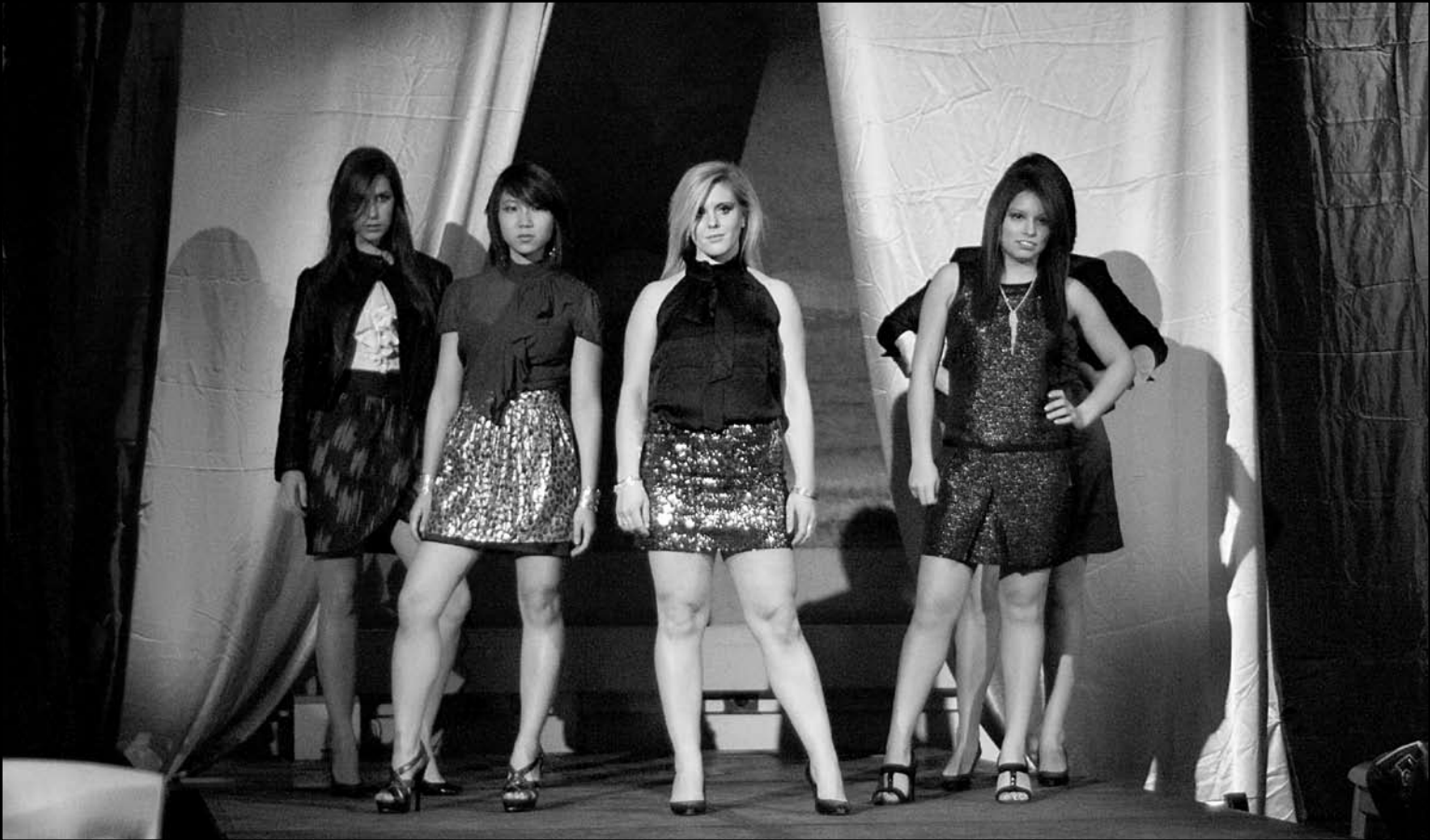
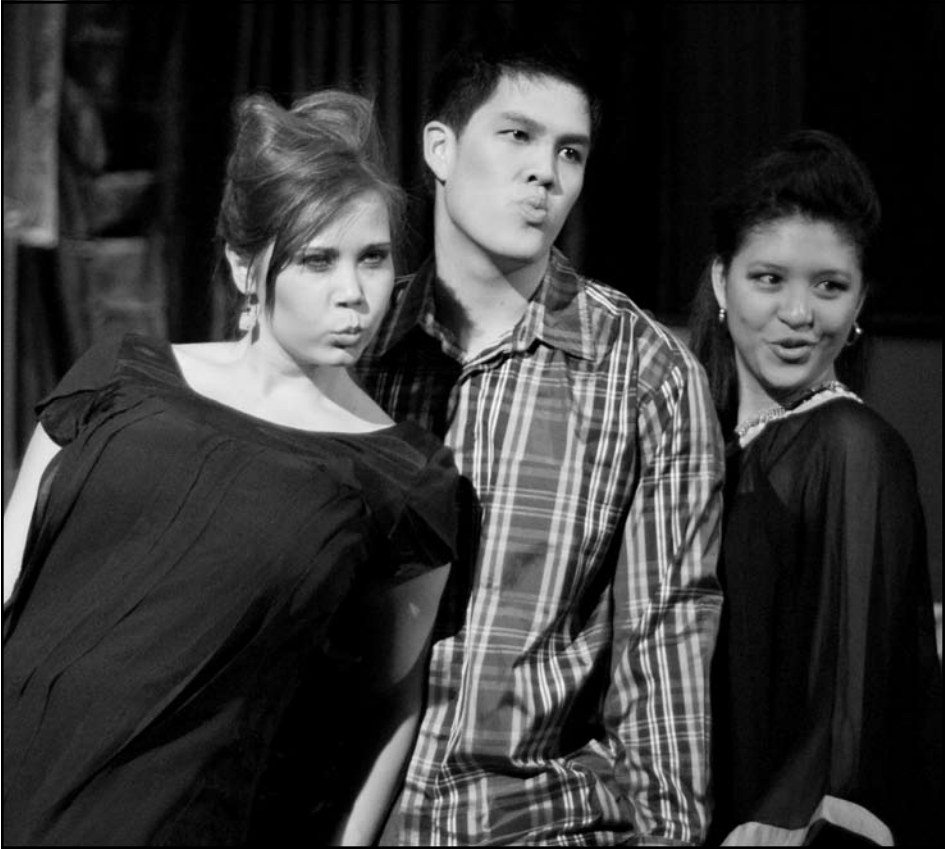
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MIT Students Strut Down the KATwalk



Kappa Alpha Theta hosted their annual benefit fashion show, KATwalk, on November 11 in Walker Memorial. The show featured MIT students modeling brand name clothing.

(clockwise from top)

Models storm down the runway one last time as they end the sequence of clothing from American Apparel.

Breanna D. Berry '12, Timothy R. Lee '11, and Chrystelle Kiang '13 pucker their lips in a pose for the Shubrah fashion segment. Shubrah is an eco-friendly brand that blends fashion styles from the east and the west.

(left to right) Emavieve R. Coles '12, Sonia L. Jin '10, Jessica L. Hammond '12, and Veronica L. Barrera '13 strut out onto the catwalk as they open the show with outfits from Club Monaco.

Joanne Y. Shih '10 and Charles M. Gauthier '12 pose as part of the MIT Couture segment.

Photography by Feng Wu



The Night Market; organized by the MIT Asian American Association, the Association of Taiwanese Students at MIT, and the MIT Chinese Students Club; took place in Lobdell on November 14. The venue was decorated with Chinese lanterns, and each Asian student group was in charge of decorating a booth with their own style.

MIT Medical Uses Own Syringes, Needles Instead of Govt's at Clinics

H1N1 Clinics, from Page 1

John M. Auerbach, State Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, recently reported on his public health blog that Massachusetts has received about 1 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine and suggested that future clinics — like next Tuesday's and the one hoped for after Thanksgiving — will become more frequent.

Clinic Logistics

Tuesday's vaccines were offered free of charge to undergraduate and then graduate students from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in MacGregor House on a walk-in basis after Medical received the vaccine from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health a few days earlier.

Diamond said that Medical received Tuesday's vaccines late last week and that, in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) policy, the earlier vaccine deliveries

were first offered to Medical staff, pregnant women, and children before students.

As more vaccines arrive, Medical will continue to follow CDC policy, giving high-risk patients and younger students first priority before staff and other community members.

Diamond said that, for Tuesday's clinic, Medical first considered offering the vaccine to freshmen, but decided to increase the scope of the clinic to include all undergraduates because of the large number of vaccines available.

The undergraduates were notified via e-mail from dorm housemasters.

Medical decided to open the clinic to graduate students mid-day when less than half of the vaccines had been used.

Addressing Student Concerns

Medical uses its own syringes and needles, which might make the vaccine less painful, instead of the government-provided ones. Dia-

mond said that the clinics have cost Medical an amount "in [the] thousands of dollars" and that MIT has not yet designated specific funds to the clinics.

For future clinics, Diamond said Medical would try to administer the vaccines on different days of the week to accommodate more students' schedules. Running clinics on nights and weekends, when students would be less likely to have class or other activities, would substantially raise the cost of delivering vaccines, he said.

In response to potential concerns from community members about the long-term safety of the H1N1 vaccine, Diamond said the new vaccine presents the "same risk as the usual flu shot" and "is made by the same companies and processes as seasonal influenza shots that are given to 100 million people each year."

He said the vaccine is "very safe" and that "there is a higher risk from the illness than the vaccine."

Profs Voted to Move Sept. Holiday to Fall On Career Fair Day

Faculty Meeting, from Page 1

cates for junior faculty.

Hammond also asked that individual departments implement annual reviews of all faculty, institute a "comprehensive feedback and evaluation process," and to build relationships with other institutions to attract and retain star URM students.

One obstacle the team identified was apathy for the issue on campus. "There is a tension created by the outward presumption that true meritocracy is already essentially achieved at MIT," said Hammond. She cited a group finding that "MIT non-URM faculty viewed diversity as less critical to the MIT core values of excellence."

Not all faculty were impressed with the Initiative's suggestions. One professor said he felt offended by the Initiative's report because it seemed to suggest that academic departments would not understand the benefits of diversity and therefore would not make appropriate efforts to encourage diversity.

The Initiative's full report is expected to be published by mid-December.

Before Hammond's report, Provost Rafael L. Reif spoke at the meeting about efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minority faculty.

He presented data showing upward trends in the diversity of both students and faculty:

Ever since a resolution in 2004 to increase the number of URM faculty by a factor of two and URM graduate students by a factor of three within a decade, MIT has gradually increased its URM population, said Reif.

Since 1991, the undergraduate URM percentage rose from 10 to 23 percent, while the URM graduate student percentage rose from 3 to 7 percent.

Of 236 faculty hires from the last year, 27 were URM and 70 were women.

During questioning, Reif said that MIT does not have lower admission standards for women and URM, but that those groups of applicants "self-selected pretty harshly," so that women and URM who applied to

MIT were already "the best of the best," explaining their higher acceptance rates.

When asked by Professor Albert R. Meyer how MIT compares with other universities in efforts to increase diversity, Reif said that during the MIT's recent Institute-wide re-accreditation, other institutions that reviewed MIT, including Yale and Emory, were impressed with MIT's level of diversity.

Holiday to Coincide with Career Fair

The faculty passed a motion to experiment with scheduling the September student holiday to correspond with the career fair in fall 2010 and fall 2012. In fall 2010, there will be no student holiday in September, as is the case every year Labor Day falls late in the month.

The Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council which created the motion, will collect feedback on the change from students, companies, and other members of the community each year. In spring 2013 the groups plan to present a final report on whether the holiday should be permanently moved or remain on a Monday, when it has been scheduled historically.

Undergraduate Association President Michael A. Bennie '10 spoke before the vote and said that, by holding the career fair on a holiday, students would not have to miss class to attend, and companies would be able to hold presentations and interviews for more students.

Some faculty members expressed concerns about how would affect students uninvolved with the career fair. June L. Matthews, professor of physics and associate chair of the faculty, noted one concern brought up in discussion: "Many students value their three day weekend early in the semester ... We are taking something away from this part of the community, and not really giving them anything in return."

Despite these concerns, the motion passed unanimously and applause followed.

The next faculty meeting is scheduled for December 16.

Huge Budget Cuts Are Pushing Univ. Of Calif. Schools into Steep Decline

California, from Page 1

get has been slashed by \$2.8 billion this year, including \$813 million from the university system — about the equivalent of New Mexico's entire higher education budget.

"Dismantling this institution, which is a huge economic driver for the state, is a stupendously stupid thing to do, but that's the path the Legislature has embarked on," said Richard A. Mathies, dean of the College of Chemistry here at Berkeley, long the system's premier campus. "When you pull resources from an institution like this, faculty leave, the best grad students don't come, and the discoveries go down."

As the litany of cuts continues, there is a growing worry that senior faculty members may begin to de-

fect. In fact, some colleges around the nation have begun identifying funds to use to recruit U.C. professors.

Since California adopted a master plan for higher education in 1960, the state has been, in the words of the historian Kevin Starr, "utopia for higher education." Eight of the 10 University of California campuses — all but Merced and San Francisco — are in the top 100 in this year's U.S. News & World Report's rankings. But maintaining that edge, without resources, is difficult.

In 2004, international rankings by the London-based Times Higher Education named Berkeley the No. 2 research university in the world, behind only Harvard. This year, Berkeley plummeted to No. 39, mostly because of its high faculty-to-student ratio. The other international rankings, by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, rated Berkeley No. 3 this month.

Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a nonpartisan group that promotes access to higher education, said that while public universities in many states were facing financial problems, California was in a class by itself.

"In most states, it's the economy, and you can say that in a couple of years, it will bounce back," Callan

said. "But in California, it's really part of a significant retrenchment of the whole public sector. If the perception is that it's going to be chronic, and people give up on California, the pre-eminence of Berkeley and UCLA would be in danger."

No wonder, then, that people like Bruce Fuller, a Berkeley professor of education and public policy, are asking themselves whether it is time to move on.

As co-director of the Institute for Human Development, an interdisciplinary research group that suffered big cuts, Fuller worries that the unit is losing its intellectual excitement and its ability to support his grant proposals. Then, too, he lost his two best graduate students last year to Stanford.

"To stay on top, you need to be bringing in new people," Fuller said. "And I'm not sure how many of my most stimulating colleagues will still be here in three years."

So although he was not swayed last year when the University of North Carolina came calling, Fuller said, he may be more receptive this year.

Formerly taboo ideas, like allowing UCLA and Berkeley to charge substantially more than other campuses, or even eliminating the research mission at some of the newer campuses, are being put forward.

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Solution to Crossword
from page 10

L	A	M	B	A	R	K	S	A	D	D	I	S
O	D	O	R	G	O	R	E	N	O	R	S	E
L	E	N	O	L	I	M	I	T	G	I	A	N
A	S	K	N	O	T	S	T	R	E	N	G	T
				C	R	A	B	E	E	L		
L	E	O	N	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O
F	O	R	A	E	R	O			C	O	R	N
O	R	I	G	S	N	A	R	F	B	I	K	E
O	R	C	A	S		N	O	R	I		N	E
L	E	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A
				R	I	A		I	S	A	O	
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	S	C	A	U	S	E
E	L	I	A	N		L	E	G	O	C	R	A
A	D	D	L	E		E	M	M	E		E	T
R	E	E	F	S		T	I	C	S		R	E

Solution to Sudoku
from page 10

8	6	2	3	7	1	5	9	4
3	1	5	9	4	6	2	7	8
4	9	7	2	8	5	6	3	1
6	3	9	4	2	8	7	1	5
2	5	4	6	1	7	3	8	9
1	7	8	5	3	9	4	6	2
9	2	3	1	6	4	8	5	7
5	8	6	7	9	2	1	4	3
7	4	1	8	5	3	9	2	6

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SPORTS

Women's Rugby Wins
New Englands

Playing through monsoon-like rain and ankle-deep mud, MIT Women's Rugby inched up the field against tough opposition from Middlebury at the New England Championship game in Newport, RI on Saturday. MIT controlled the ball for most of the game. With a try in the first half and another plus a penalty in the second, MIT won with a score of 13-0. Next up for the team is the National Championships in Cherry Hill, NJ this weekend.

—Kat Kononov, Team Member



The MIT women's rugby forwards drive a scrum while scrum-half Alyssa M. Baccarella '11 prepares to collect the ball during the Engineers game against Middlebury last Saturday. MIT won the game, making them the New England Rugby Football Union Division III champions and securing them a place in the national collegiate rugby championships this upcoming weekend.

Men's Basketball Opens
With Win over Emmanuel

Men's Basketball defeated Emmanuel College in their season opener on Tuesday, 68-54. MIT took a 31-28 lead at halftime, and would hold for the rest of the game. The Engineers were led by Willard J. "Billy" Johnson '10, Noel Hollingsworth '12, and Mitchell H. Kates '13, who had 18, 15, and 14 points, respectively.

MIT will play in the RPI Invitational Tournament this weekend.

—David Zhu, Sports Editor

MIT Football Players
Win NEFC Awards for
Strong Performance

By Russell Spivak
TEAM MEMBER

Seven Engineers were honored by the New England Football Conference for their achievements both on and off the field.

Offensively, All-American captain DeRon M. Brown '10 was the only player to be named to either the first or second team. Brown, the first-team representative for the second consecutive year, ended the year with 1363 total yards on 269 rushing attempts and 151.4 average yards per game — which significantly dropped when Brown left the final game of the year with a concussion in the first quarter. Brown was also named the offensive player of the year in the Boyd Division of the NEFC for the second consecutive year.

On defense, linebacker Peter W. Gilliland '12 and defensive back Brian P. Doyle '11 were named to the first team, while captain Alexander F. Rubino '10 was named to the second team for the second straight year.

Gilliland led the NEFC with 13.0 tackles per game, totaling 117 tackles, 52 solo. He was second in total tackles, but the leading tackler for Worcester State had played an extra game. Gilliland was "decently happy with [his] performance during the season." The sophomore linebacker, however, understands it's a team game; "a big motivator for me during the offseason is the team's performance. The team didn't do well, regardless of my personal awards, and that will only push me to continue to work hard and push myself and my teammates."

Doyle anchored the defensive secondary, providing the MIT defense with 44 tackles, 27 solo, 1.5 tackles for a loss, 1 sack, and 4 interceptions. Doyle, now a junior, has played all

across the field, returning punts and kicks for the Engineers after starting his career as a quarterback.

"I am excited and honored to receive the accolades, to be in the class with Pete, DeRon, and Alex. It gives me something to build off of next year. The awards system is also based off of team performance, so hopefully, with a few more W's, more accolades will accumulate for us, and it makes me and everyone else over the offseason to push it in the weight room."

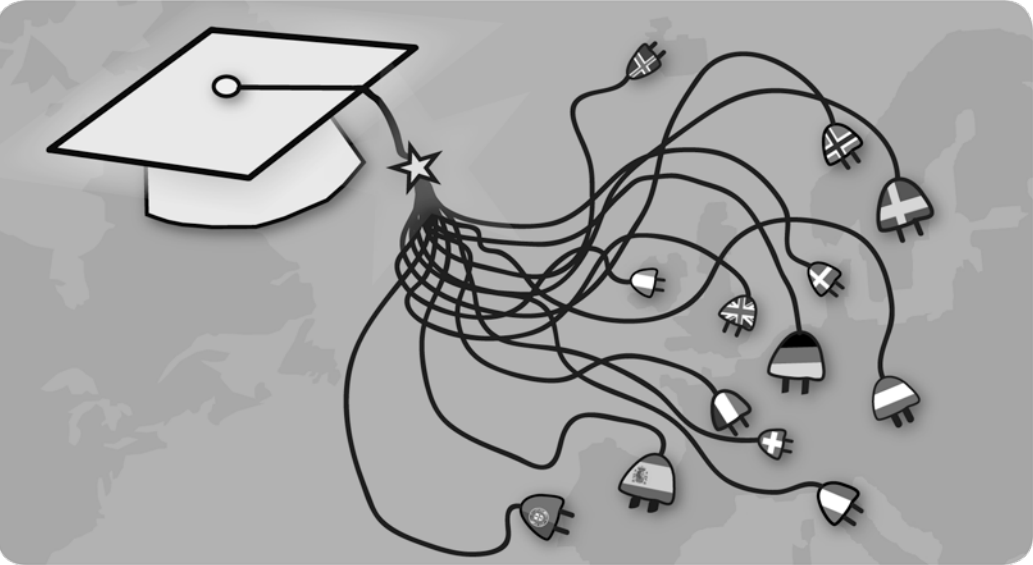
Rubino finished his final campaign with 43 tackles, 19 solo, and lead the team with 12.0 tackles for a loss, 1 sack and one interception. Rubino was also awarded the Hal Chalmers Award, given to the senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

"I was a little disappointed in myself because my goal at the beginning of the season was 1st team, but I'm still proud and thrilled to be named to the 2nd team. As well, I am very appreciative and ecstatic for the Hal Chalmers award. These awards, however, don't make up for a disappointing season, but I am definitely optimistic about the team's future."

Along with these awards based on football performances, Doyle, Rubino, Brian H. Mickle '10, captain William J. Gibson '10, and Zachary W. Rose '10 were named to the Academic All-District team. Of the 5, Rose was the only player who did not start all 5 games, as a broken ankle left him sidelined for the majority of the year. Gibson finished the season as the Cardinal and Grey's third leading tackler, accounting for 57 tackles, 4.5 tackles for a loss, 2 forced fumbles, and 2 fumble recoveries, while Mickle ended his year with 25 total tackles, 3 tackles for loss, one sack, and one forced fumble.

All 5 nominations will be eligible for the CoSIDA Academic All-American award.

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UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, November 20, 2009	
Men's Water Polo vs. Princeton University	4 p.m., Z-Center Pool
Squash vs. Northwestern University	7 p.m., Z-Center Courts
Saturday, November 21, 2009	
Men's Crew — Foot of the Charles	9 a.m., Charles River
Squash vs. Colby College	2:30 p.m., Z-Center Courts
Sunday, November 22, 2009	
Squash vs. Wesleyan University	11:30 a.m., Z-Center Courts

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball	
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	
Emmanuel College	54
MIT (1-0)	68
Women's Basketball	
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	
Wentworth College	50
MIT (0-1)	38

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